



# RECREATION AND LEISURE MASTER PLAN REPORT

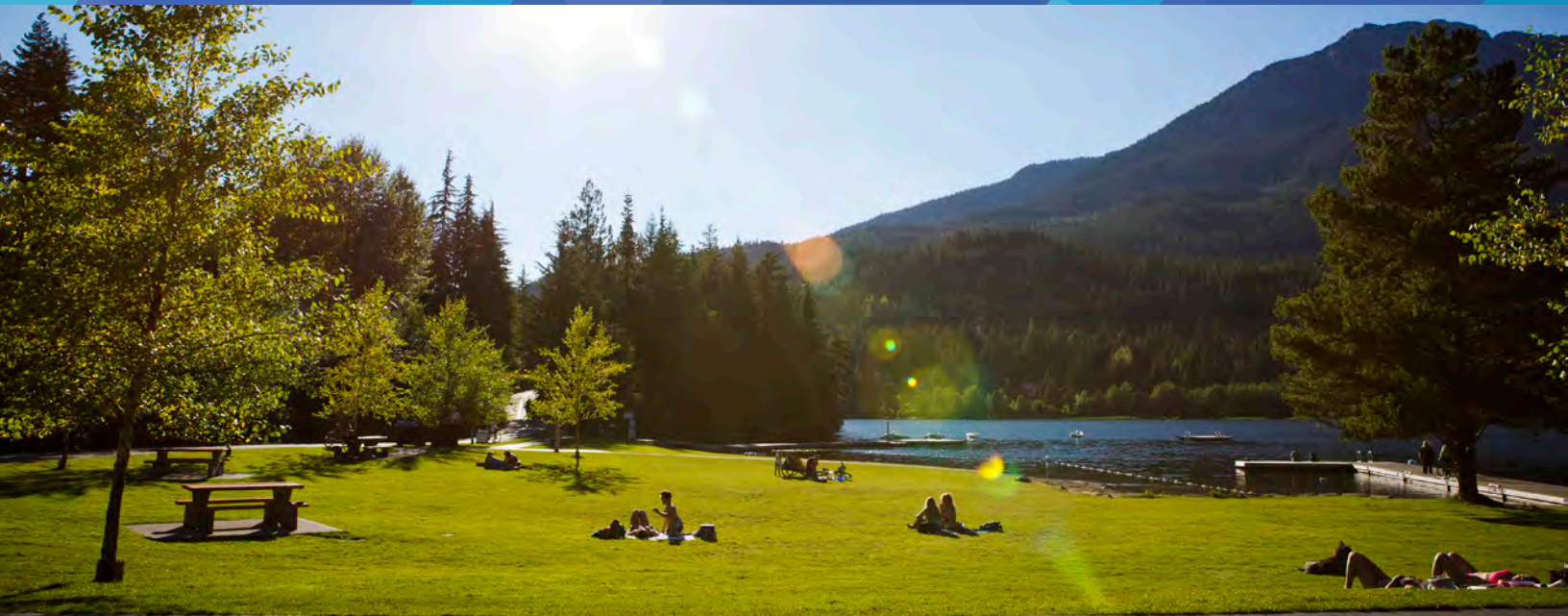
This strategic planning document and Master Plan Report outlines recreation and leisure priorities in Whistler.

The supporting Recreation And Leisure Master Plan Detailed Recommendations document contains detailed recommendations for each of the Resort Municipality of Whistler's parks and recreation amenities and programs.

2015

Resort Municipality of Whistler  
whistler.ca





# Executive Summary

For the first time since 1996, the Resort Municipality of Whistler has completed a comprehensive master planning process for its recreation and leisure assets. Recommended as a significant priority in both the 2012 Council Action Plan and the 2013 Economic Partnership Initiative report, the recreation and leisure master planning process took place over two years and involved consultation with hundreds of stakeholders from about 45 different interest groups.

The complete 2015 Recreation and Leisure Master Plan (RLMP) recognizes recreation and leisure as key contributors to the Whistler Brand and includes parks, trails, lakes and rivers, recreation facilities and programs. The RLMP comprises a complete inventory of these assets in Whistler: a first for the community. The master planning process has provided much-needed information and insight as to how these assets are managed and co-managed on behalf of residents and visitors.

The RLMP provides the community direction by:

- Identifying the guiding direction for the protection, enhancement, strategic development, and operational delivery of existing amenities, programming and related services;
- Classifying current and future needs;
- Providing strategic direction of economic value to the resort community; and
- Establishing priorities for Whistler's park, trail and recreation facilities over the next 10 years.

The focus of this document is to provide an overview of the phased approach to develop the RLMP, and various levels of community consultation that resulted in a number of recommended actions for each category of recreation and leisure asset. The RLMP also explains the thorough review and evaluation process used to prioritize projects and investments for the immediate, short, medium and longer terms. The supporting maps and data tables provide context and ancillary figures to back the recommended priorities. A companion document, the *RLMP Detailed Recommendations* report, outlines each strategic direction in greater detail, along with background information and the rationale for recommendations.

Recreation and leisure are integral components of the Whistler Brand; which is the visitor experience that sets Whistler apart from other places and resorts in North America. Given that Whistler's recreation system is intertwined with the resort's brand and that the system has consistently generated high user satisfaction levels, the RLMP process determined five main focus areas for the next 10 years:

- Maintain and monitor service and satisfaction levels;
- Improve experiences;
- Plan for new opportunities in response to resort and community needs and economic activities;
- Support the Whistler Brand; and
- Enhance administration, internal documents and processes.



The RLMP process involved various levels of stakeholder engagement, which produced about 90 recommendations with over 300 supporting actions in 20 categories for each of Whistler's parks and recreation programs and amenities. Through the prioritization process for these many recommendations, seven issues were identified as a foundation for the master planning process:

- Service and satisfaction levels
- Areas of dissatisfaction or user conflict
- Aging infrastructure
- Capacity and crowding
- Lakes: havens for relaxation
- The Whistler Brand
- Collaboration for success.

These parameters, along with other criteria identified by resort stakeholders, helped to create the vision, goals, focus areas and priority strategies for the RLMP outlined in the table below:

RECREATION AND LEISURE MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES					
<b>RLMP VISION</b>	Recognizing our mountain landscape and natural beauty, Whistler is a leader in offering high quality innovative recreation, leisure and sport activities that reflect the values of the resort community, achieve a balance between infrastructure and the natural environment, and provide opportunities for tourism-based economic growth.				
<b>RLMP GOALS</b>	Add value to the resort over the short and long term Achieve greater efficiencies with limited resources Provide diverse, affordable recreational opportunities for Whistler residents of all ages Enrich resident and visitor experiences Respond to growth objectives and trends Address low satisfaction levels or gaps and reduce user conflicts Optimize existing assets Align or have synergies with other municipal or partner/stakeholder initiatives				
<b>RLMP FOCUS AREAS</b>	1. Maintain and Monitor	2. Improve Experiences	3. Plan	4. Support the Whistler Brand	5. Enhance Administration
<b>RLMP KEY STRATEGIES</b>	1.1 Continue to provide efficient delivery of municipal services to maintain high resident and visitor satisfaction levels. 1.2 Ensure a balance between recreational needs and the natural environment. 1.3 Protect the experiential qualities of valued natural assets.	2.1 Respond to proven negatives and areas of user conflict. 2.2 Address capacity and crowding issues 2.3 Support initiatives that enhance existing experiences.	3.1 Conduct needs assessment and/or other studies to expand, improve or build municipal facilities. 3.2 Ensure the provision of an appropriate amount of park and open space to meet long-term resort community needs. 3.3 Consider new assets to meet growing demands and retain resort differentiation. 3.4 Consider partnership and where appropriate sponsorship opportunities to help build, fund, maintain, promote and operate new and existing facilities.	4.1 Encourage the delivery of an enhanced and consistent quality of recreational experience across jurisdictions 4.2 Leverage and support existing and emerging recreation and leisure activities that are consistent with and further the Whistler Brand. 4.3 Acknowledge and foster Whistler's growing high performance sport economy and sport tourism opportunities.	5.1 Maintain commitments to public engagement and collaborative efforts. 5.2 Align and update municipal regulatory documents. 5.3 Consider new bylaws and policies where necessary to achieve RLMP goals and strategies. 5.4 Update relevant internal municipal standards, policies and supporting documents.

The RLMP is designed to be consistent with the community priorities of *Whistler2020*, as well as the relevant policies of the 1993 *Official Community Plan (OCP)*. The RLMP also builds upon the 2013 Economic Partnership Initiative Report, the 2012/13 Community Cultural Plan, and the RMOW Corporate Plan. The RLMP Report and RLMP Detailed Recommendations are not necessarily a commitment for future investment, rather the directions outlined will help inform decisions that are made by senior staff and municipal council as part of annual work plan preparations and the budget process.

Whistler, with a population of about 10,500, has an incredible array of facilities and amenities when compared with other municipalities with less than 20,000 residents. Residents and visitors have the opportunity to experience a broad spectrum of recreation, and leisure and sport assets and activities year-round in our mountain playground. It is imperative that these assets are maintained, enhanced, developed and enriched for the long-term enjoyment of residents and visitors, and for the important connections to the Whistler Brand.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Updating the Recreation and Leisure Master Plan

In February 2013, Whistler Council approved the budget to update the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Recreation and Leisure Master Plan (RLMP). This updated RLMP replaces the 1996 Parks Vision Master Plan, addresses gaps and responds to changes in the areas of development, economic, sport, recreation, and environmental protection in Whistler.

Most of the recommendations of the 1996 RMOW Parks Vision Master Plan have been implemented, and there was a need to create a new plan, which includes municipal recreation programs and facilities. The new plan reflects Whistler's transition from a period of rapid growth and development to a new phase of protecting, enhancing, and improving our assets while strategically planning for the next 10 years.

Updating the RLMP was identified in the 2012-2018 Corporate Plan, and the master plan is aligned with and guided by other municipal documents, such as Whistler2020, Whistler's sustainability plan and vision, the 1993 Official Community Plan, the Economic Partnership Initiative Summary of Key Findings Report. The RLMP also explores opportunities to expand potential for sport tourism and leverage other opportunities. The plan considers comparative information from other communities, resorts, and recreation providers, input from community groups and resort partners, input from residents, second homeowners, and visitors, demographic and trending information, budget information, and many other factors.

Recreation and leisure are integral components of the "Whistler Brand," which is the visitor experience that sets Whistler apart from other places and resorts in North America. The Whistler Brand is a tapestry of well-loved community amenities, experiences and hidden gems surrounded by a spectacular mountain playground that together, create a place where people are proud to live, work and play.

Whistler's recreation system consistently produces high user satisfaction levels: 85 percent of permanent residents and second homeowners are very satisfied or satisfied with municipal parks, trails, and municipal recreation programs and facilities. The chart below illustrates the relatively consistent feedback and high levels of satisfaction with these municipal services.



<sup>1</sup> The number represents the total of 'somewhat satisfied' and 'very satisfied'. RMOW Community Life Tracking Surveys (Mustel Group Market Research).







**Figure 1: Community Life Survey - Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation**

Satisfaction with municipal services: <sup>1</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013	2014
Maintenance of parks and trails	90%	99%	96%	96%	97%	95%
Recreational programs & facilities	85%	92%	88%	91%	92%	89%

Given the particularly high levels of satisfaction among residents and visitors, this RLMP seeks to ensure that Whistler's recreation experience is maintained and enhanced where appropriate. Recreational trends, issues and opportunities are always changing, and the goal is to ensure Whistler remains at the leading edge, continually providing new or refreshed reasons for visitors to come to the resort, while enhancing the quality of life for residents. The planning process has also acknowledged that as the resort continues to build occupancy levels and destination visits, particularly in the summer months, this recreation system will require ongoing investment and maintenance to meet growing demand and traffic.

This master plan and the detailed recommendations are not necessarily a commitment for future investment; rather the priorities outlined in master plan will help inform decisions that are made by Council as part of the defined budget process and over the course of their ongoing deliberations.

## 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the RLMP is to provide high-level direction for Whistler's parks, trails, lakes, rivers, recreation facilities, programs and non-commercial activities. The guidance it provides will:

- Identify the guiding direction for the protection, enhancement, strategic development, and operational delivery of existing amenities, programming and related services;
- Identify current and future needs;
- Provide strategic direction of economic value to the resort community, and;
- Establish priorities for Whistler's park, trail and recreation facilities over the next 10 years.

### 1.2.1 Core Values

The RLMP planning and prioritization process was guided by a set of core values that places long-term value for community stakeholders at the forefront. Municipal planners and staff make decisions on projects each day, but these core values were introduced to help prioritize the decade ahead for the master plan.

**Balance needs:** ensure the needs of recreational users, the environment and neighbourhoods are considered.

**Enrich experiences:** maintain or enrich the experience for users.

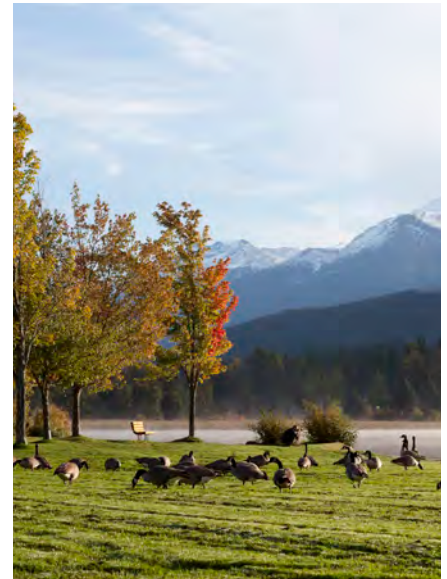
**Promote healthy living:** facilities support healthy living, athlete development and lifelong active living.

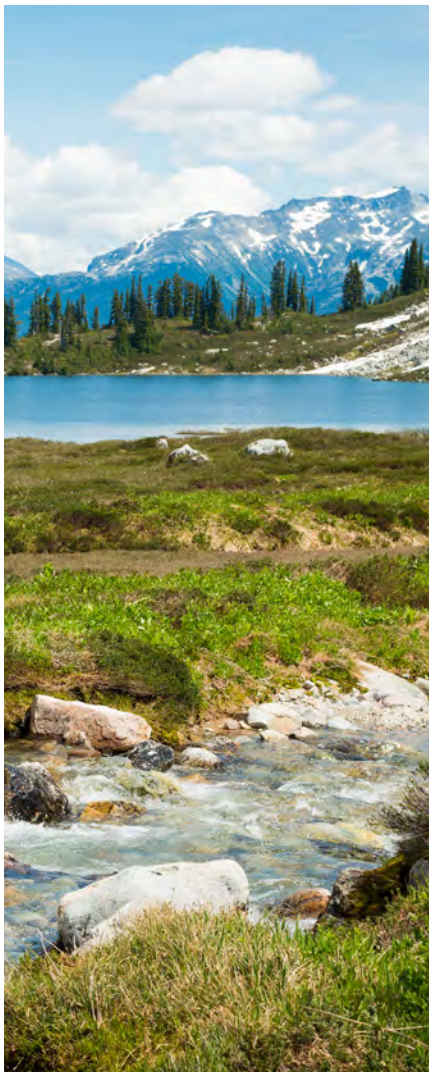
**Deliver quality:** maintain and deliver service levels while adjusting in response to changes in resident and visitor satisfaction or demand levels.

**Nurture opportunities:** understand emerging opportunities to extend the Whistler brand into the resort-wide and nearby recreation and leisure experiences.

"Whistler's residents and second homeowners consistently express extremely high levels of satisfaction with municipal parks, trails, recreation programs and facilities. I am happy to see this project moving forward to update the 1996 Parks Vision Master Plan, and to create guidelines to protect and improve our existing recreation system and consider future opportunities for the resort community."

Mayor Nancy Wilhelm-Morden





## 1.3 Project Scope

There are also several parks, lakes, rivers, trails and other outdoor amenities, which are not within the local government's jurisdiction and are part of Whistler's recreation experience. See the APPENDIX in section 6.2: Municipal Recreation Facility Inventory, for a comparison of municipal recreation facilities in similar jurisdictions across the province of British Columbia. The scope of the RLMP is further clarified below to provide perspective on these assets. See the APPENDIX in section 6.3: Non-Municipal Assets for detail on assets outside of the municipality's jurisdiction. Unlike other communities of a similar size and with 10,500 permanent residents, Whistler maintains a robust infrastructure of established recreational amenities.

### 1.3.1 Municipal Assets

The RLMP is rooted in the 1993 Official Community Plan and builds upon the largely out-of-date 1996 Parks Vision Master Plan. The RLMP primarily focuses on the municipally operated park system, recreation programs, facilities, lakes and rivers and recreational trails. Several maps and charts in the APPENDIX outline the inventory of these amenities in the municipality, including specific data for parks, fields and facilities.

### 1.3.2 Other Agency Built Assets

The RLMP does give consideration to physical recreation, leisure and sport assets operated by other land management agencies located within or adjacent to the municipal boundary, in the context of the value they provide to the broader area recreation experience. Similarly, consideration is given to programming opportunities offered by non-municipal partners and businesses.

These include, but are not limited to the built assets within Whistler Blackcomb's Controlled Recreation Area, the 2010 Winter Games Venues managed by the Whistler Sport Legacies Society, portions of Highway 99 and the Callaghan Valley Road. These are indicated in the APPENDIX, section 6.3 Maps: Non-Municipal Area Assets in the image of nearby recreation and leisure assets.

### 1.3.3 Other Agency Natural Assets

There are also natural assets both within and outside of municipal boundaries that contribute to a broader recreation experience in the Whistler area. Within municipal boundaries these include: many recreational trails, One Duck and Logger's Lakes, the Whistler Interpretative Forest, portions of Rainbow and Sproatt Mountains, reaches of rivers including, but not limited to the Cheakamus, Callaghan and Green Rivers, and portions of lands connecting them all. The Cheakamus Community Forest is located within and adjacent to municipal boundaries.

Natural assets located outside but near to municipal boundaries are managed by a variety of means including, but not limited to, the Crown (Provincial Parks, tenured recreation areas, and other lands under the jurisdiction of the Province of BC), the Cheakamus Community Forest Society, and private landholders.

Specifically these are inventoried in the APPENDIX section 6.3 Maps: Non-Municipal Assets and include:

- Provincial Parks (e.g. Garibaldi, Brandywine Falls, Callaghan Lake);
- Provincial Recreation Areas (e.g. Ancient Cedars, Cal Cheak, Alexander Falls)
- Provincial Interpretative Forest (Shadow Lake)
- Conservancy Areas (e.g. Callaghan, Upper Soo)
- Others (e.g. Recreation Tenure Holders, Whistler Olympic Park, Highway 99 and the Callaghan Valley Road)

While all of these assets are not controlled by the RMOW, from a visitor or resident's perspective, they add to the myriad of outdoor recreation and leisure experiences enjoyed and valued by the resort community, and are perceived as part of the Whistler Brand. Many of these assets have existing or additional programming potential. For these reasons they are considered within the RLMP.

### 1.3.4 Exclusions

**Whistler Village:** Whistler Village is generally excluded from the RLMP because it has its own set of unique characteristics worthy of a separate planning process: Whistler Village 3.0. Information on this project is available on the municipal website at: [whistler.ca/village3.0](http://whistler.ca/village3.0).

**Privately Held Assets:** Although a variety of privately operated recreational assets that are of high value to the resort community exist within and adjacent to Whistler; the RMOW is not directly involved in their development, management, marketing, or operations. That said, input from the owners of these assets has been provided through various means, in some cases as part of the RLMP engagement process, or in other cases on an as-need basis through other working groups and processes.

## 1.4 Project Process and Engagement

To develop the draft directions for the master plan, community engagement was a critical piece of this project. This began indirectly through community engagement and policy development process as part of a revised Official Community Plan that was not adopted. Active Recreation and Leisure Master Plan engagement included a questionnaire and interviews with a range of groups including government, partners, community stakeholder and user groups, schools, and third party operators on municipal properties. Council, relevant municipal committees and/or initiatives as well as front line staff were also directly engaged. In particular, the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee of council played an important role in providing advice and feedback throughout the RLMP update process.

A project website, social media, community advisories, Whistler Today, Mayor's report, advertising, surveys, council reports and workshops, and community events were used to help engage the resort community.

### 1.4.1 Project Phases

**Phase I** of the RLMP, which included the asset inventory, staff sessions and analysis, was completed in 2013. The APPENDIX in this RLMP includes maps and data tables with a detailed breakdown on these assets, including information on neighbourhood parks, an inventory of municipal recreation facilities compared to similar sized municipalities, yearly park use data by field and sport.

**Phase II** was largely focused on community engagement. To make the plan as effective as possible, community members and over 45 stakeholder groups, partners, government agencies and industry consultants participated in deliberate, community-led conversations on the RLMP. This included organizations such as: Whistler Blackcomb, Tourism Whistler, Whistler Sport Legacies Society, School District #48, Village of Pemberton, and the District of Squamish.

Whistler community members participated in a number of interactive communication strategies including six online surveys, stakeholder sessions, a community open house and corresponding online open house. Members of the council-appointed Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee (RLAC) attended stakeholder meetings and reviewed draft materials. Council was provided updates in May and October 2013.



Following this extensive engagement, a document that summarized feedback and common themes was shared with stakeholders on the municipal website in August 2013. The document entitled **What We Heard**, was a reflection of community and stakeholder input throughout the engagement process. Over 400 distinct comments were distilled into over 133 draft findings, all of which was shared with the community.

**Phase III** included feedback from a park and trail resort visitor intercept survey conducted during the summer of 2014, and review by municipal staff and members of the council-appointed RLAC. Each of the draft findings was assessed to ensure that the resulting draft directions were aligned with RLMP goals and objectives, resort community priorities, and other resort initiatives. Phase III was delayed due to other municipal priorities including the 2013 Official Community Plan review, the municipal election in fall 2014 and the decision to conduct additional visitor surveys in order to test initial assumptions. In May 2015 the **RLMP Draft Directions** were available for review on the municipal website.

**Phase IV** encompassed the **RLMP Detailed Recommendations** report (a final version of the Draft Directions), the prioritization of strategic actions, document review, consolidation of the final master plan with supporting maps and data tables, and presentations to the RLAC and Council for final adoption.

## 1.4.2 Process Overview

The RLMP update started in 2013 and was conducted over a phased approach with key milestones outlined below.

Figure 2: RLMP Process Overview



## 1.5 Project Context

The RLMP was framed with a number of considerations that impact the recreation and leisure experience in Whistler. Each of these provided significant background and context for the RLMP and were referenced or consulted throughout the planning process.

### 1.5.1 Municipal Policies

Prioritizing the recommended directions and actions was a process that began through the stakeholder consultations in the planning process. The projects identified in the RLMP have also been reviewed to ensure they are aligned with other policy considerations as noted below.

- **Whistler2020:** Whistler2020 is a vision and policy that provides a broad strategic scope and recommended actions for our ongoing journey towards success and sustainability.
- **Official Community Plan:** Whistler's 1993 Official Community Plan serves as a framework for all policies, regulations and decisions pertaining to land use and development in Whistler.
- **Economic Partnership Initiative Report:** Endorsed by Whistler council in 2013, the report summarizes key research and findings conducted by the committee, provides concrete recommendations for collaboration for Whistler's continued economic success, and defines guidelines for evaluating investment of RMI funds to maintain and grow Whistler's tourism economy.
- **Community Cultural Plan:** Developed in 2012/13, the plan guides the RMOW's pursuit and development of arts, culture and heritage opportunities.
- **Corporate Plan:** Updated annually, the Corporate Plan guides strategic decision-making within the organization over the coming years. The plan was developed as one of the key deliverables recommended in 2012-2014 Council Action Plan to increase accountability and transparency with community members.

The RLMP was also designed and integrated with other municipal planning initiatives currently underway, receiving input and policy insights from the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee, Forest Wildland Advisory Committee, Measuring-Up Committee, Festivals Events and Animation Oversight Committee, the Whistler Community Cultural Plan, the Cheakamus Community Forest, the Trails Planning Working Group and the Learning and Education Task Force.

### 1.5.2 Sea to Sky Region

The context of the RLMP also recognizes significant recreation opportunities in the Sea to Sky corridor that are currently under consideration, planned for development and/or delivered by other organizations. In some cases, the development of a significant new amenity or program opportunity in the Sea to Sky region may either increase opportunities or impact existing local assets in terms of their levels and patterns of use. Often, these amenities compete for both third-party capital funding as well regular users to help offset operational costs. See the Non-Municipal Assets map found in the APPENDIX for detail on those assets by municipal boundaries.





While this landscape is constantly changing, the RLMP considers the following agencies:

- District of Squamish
- Village of Pemberton
- Electoral Area C
- School District 48
- Whistler Sport Legacies Society
- BC Parks
- Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations - Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- Cheakamus Community Forest Society
- Other Whistler area partners including Whistler Blackcomb, Tourism Whistler and the Alliance for Cultural Tourism

### 1.5.3 High Performance Sport Training

Whistler has a long history of developing high level athletes and coaches, and this has grown considerably, particularly after legacies from the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games were introduced. From Whistler Secondary Community School's distance education program (later adopted by the provincial government) through to the many sport organizations that now call Whistler home, sport training, development and administration is a firmly established and growing part of our culture.

High performance sport organizations that are contributing in a meaningful way to the development of existing and emerging Canadian athletes, coaches and officials in Whistler includes the Dave Murray National Training Centre, the Canadian Sport Institute – Whistler Campus, Canadian Freestyle Association Training Centre, and the Whistler Sport Legacies Society; which operates the Whistler Sliding Centre (National Training Centre for Bobsleigh, Skeleton and Luge), Whistler Olympic Park (National Development Centre for Nordic and Biathlon and National Training Centre for Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined) and the Whistler Athletes' Centre (includes the High Performance Centre, Whistler Gymnastics and the Athletes' Centre Lodge and townhomes).

There are a number of synergies related to the Whistler brand that could be capitalized on in addition to the recreation, leisure and sport opportunities offered by some of the providers, especially the Whistler Sport Legacies Society.

### 1.5.4 The Whistler Brand

Whistler is a world-class resort in a spectacular natural setting, consistently rated the number one mountain destination in North America. It is an experiential place where residents and visitors feel this experience as much as they see it through an integrated connection among nature, Whistler's built environment and its people. How people spend time in the resort, whether it's a jam-packed day trip, a two-week vacation or a seasonal job turned permanent, is what contributes to shaping the 'Whistler brand'. This Whistler brand has been acknowledged in municipal planning processes for decades, since protecting, building and strengthening the brand is integral to developing a strong and prosperous resort community.



## RECREATION EXPERIENCE AND THE WHISTLER BRAND

Whistler residents and visitors have the opportunity to experience a broad spectrum of public recreation and leisure assets and sporting activities in our mountain playground. As a resort, each of these experiences contributes to the tourism economy and the community's overall quality of life whether they are operated by a private company, the municipality or the Province of British Columbia.

Regardless of who owns and operates these assets, each one creates an impression and is perceived as part of the recreation experience and an extension of the Whistler Brand. Natural spaces in particular create impressions and have unique characteristics that collectively shape our sense of place. Whistler's distinctive natural setting is the foundation for many recreation and leisure experiences that our residents know and love. The promise of a memorable recreation experience along with the Whistler Brand effectively bundles this sense of place with a wealth of options for visitors to enjoy recreation, leisure and sport.

Through the RLMP engagement process, stakeholders acknowledged that some area recreation assets have an inconsistent level of quality for the user experience. Compared to the RMOW's standards some of these assets fall behind particularly when it comes to access, wayfinding and maintenance. Though the RLMP has a focus on municipal assets, the process can be a catalyst for opportunities through stakeholder dialogue. Other assets outside of Whistler boundaries, sometimes referred to as "gems" for their unique features and beauty, can be seamlessly integrated into the how Whistler's recreation experience is branded, creating value in the resort that is greater than the sum of its individual parts. The Non-municipal Assets map in the APPENDIX illustrates the location of these related assets. The **RLMP Detailed Recommendations** document provides additional context and information on these assets.

### 1.5.5 User Satisfaction Rates

The focus areas and prioritization for recommended directions and actions for parks and trails have been guided by the results from a number of user surveys for residents, second homeowners and visitors.

Launched prior to starting the RLMP process, the municipality's 2011 Parks and Trails survey showed that the respondents' use of parks, trails and related amenities was very high (shown in Figure 3), thus providing very relevant and helpful data to guide strategic priorities in the RLMP. This survey generated 478 responses (for partial survey completion) with 358 fully completed surveys. Of the respondents, 77 percent had been residents for at least one year and 75 percent were between the ages of 30 to 60 years. The survey captured general demographic data and was divided into two parts; which included specific questions for parks and for trails.

Figure 3: Seasonal Use of RMOW Parks and Trails

SEASONAL USE OF RMOW PARKS AND TRAILS <sup>2</sup>				
MUNICIPAL AMENITY	SPRING April May	SUMMER Jun July Aug	AUTUMN Sept Oct Nov	WINTER Dec Jan Feb Mar
<b>Park</b>	Few times/week 20%	Almost every day 40%	Few times/week 33%	Few times/week or Seldom 17%
<b>Lake/River</b>	Seldom 27%	Few times/week 29%	Seldom 20%	Seldom 27%
<b>Valley Trail</b>	Almost every day 49%	Almost every day 64%	Almost every day 54%	Almost every day 31%
<b>Off Road Trail</b>	Few times/week 33%	Almost every day 40%	Few times/week 33%	Few times/week 16%

The Valley Trail, which is used almost every day in summer by over 60 percent of respondents, is also used frequently throughout the entire year. The 40 km trail is so well loved that 93 percent of users ranked that they are either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their use of the Trail. The APPENDIX, section 6.3 Maps: RMOW Valley Trail Types and Existing Valley Trail Network, details some areas of the trail that have gaps between sections and areas where improved lighting might be added in the future.

<sup>2</sup> RMOW Parks and Trails User Survey data 2011 <sup>3</sup> RMOW Community Life Tracking Survey 2014

A more recent municipal Parks User Survey conducted in 2014 showed that 93 percent of those surveyed were satisfied with their experience at Whistler's six major resort parks. While 48 percent were visitors and 52 percent were residents, there were virtually no variances between the 957 people surveyed in their satisfaction levels.

A smaller municipal Trails Survey of 84 users in 2014 on four of Whistler's off-road recreational bike trails, showed that 79 percent ranked the trails a 9 or 10 out of 10, with the Lost Lake trails generating the highest satisfaction levels. The balance of those surveyed ranked the trails a 7 or 8 out of 10.

Whistler's annual Community Life Survey<sup>3</sup> shows that permanent residents and second homeowners are very or somewhat satisfied with recreation services. The survey has tracked this data since 2008 and the figures are consistently in the mid to high 90's for satisfaction levels.

**Figure 4: Community Life Tracking Survey Highlights**

PROPORTION OF RESIDENTS SATISFIED WITH ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION SERVICES <sup>2</sup>		
2014 Survey Results	Permanent Residents	Second Homeowners
Opportunities available for recreational physical activities	98%	100%
Walking and biking routes, i.e. Valley Trail	98%	99%
Access to Nature	99%	100%
Access to Parks such as Rainbow Park, Lakeside Park, Alpha Lake Park	95%	95%

### 1.5.6 Resident Population and Demographic Trends

As of 2014, Whistler's permanent population was estimated to be 10,448 as shown in Figure 5. Whistler is large compared to other comparable resorts (both in terms of population and existing housing base). Whistler experienced rapid population growth between 1988 and 1998, with an average annual growth rate of 13% per year, adding 6,255 new residents overall or an average of 625 new residents per year (equivalent to 250 new households). As illustrated in Figure 5, population growth has slowed significantly since that time to an annual average rate of 1.3% per year with a decrease experienced between 2004 and 2005, 2007 and 2008 and again from 2010 to 2011.

The age distribution of Whistler residents varies from the provincial average, with fewer children, youth and seniors, and a larger percentage of young adults. On peak holiday weekends, the population can swell to 55,000 including visitors. Whistler's age distribution, shown in Figure 6, is centered on a median age of 32 years, nine years younger than the provincial median age of 42 years. Sixteen percent of B.C.'s population is over the age of 65, whereas in Whistler, people aged 65 and over make up less than 5 percent of the population.

That said Whistler's senior population is still growing on a relative basis. In 2013, a total of 115 babies were born in Whistler, compared to 90 in 2000. A steady increase has been tracked since the baseline year in 1995 where about 82 births were recorded. According to Whistler 2020 population and demographic data<sup>4</sup>, 420 residents were between 0 – 4 years of age in 2011. This is a notable jump from only 350 in 2006 for the same age profile. Additional figures from School District #48 in Figures 7 and 8 that follow track where the District's students reside in Whistler along with their age distribution and enrollment.

Whistler's family and household characteristics are different from those in the province overall with a large percentage of single individuals, one-person households and households comprised of non-family members and a smaller percentage of family households with children.

Demographic data is monitored regularly and is relevant to help understand population and growth trends in the community, particularly where new amenities need to be added or existing amenities and programs may need to be modified.

<sup>4</sup> Whistler 2020 Population and Demographic Monitoring Data [http://www.whistler2020.ca/monitoring/population\\_and\\_demographics](http://www.whistler2020.ca/monitoring/population_and_demographics)

Figure 5: Estimated Permanent Population in Whistler



Figure 6: Whistler Resident Age Distribution

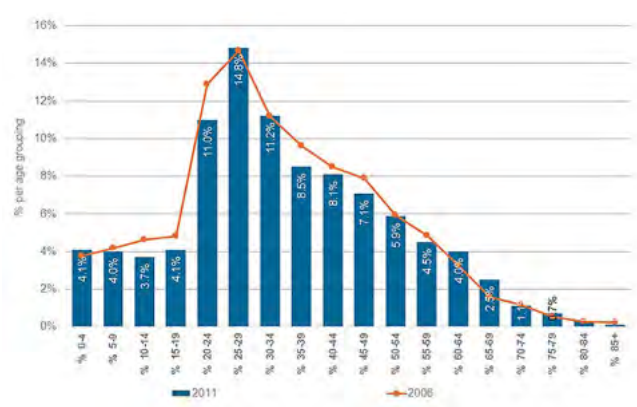


Figure 7: 2012 Distribution of Students in Whistler, School District #48

Neighbourhood	K-3	4-7	8-12
Emerald	21	12	36
Alpine	50	67	117
Spruce Grove, White Gold, North Village	26	32	34
Nicklaus North	4	4	5
Whistler Village	6	10	6
Brio	4	5	8
Nesters, Tapleys, Whistler Cay, Blueberry Hill	50	56	55
Alta Vista	5	8	17
Nordic, Whistler Creek, Bayshores, Millars, Tamarisk, Kadenwood	50	45	51
Spring Creek	21	13	14
Alta Lake Road	0	1	4
Function Junction	1	0	2
Cheakamus Crossing	15	12	18
Pinecrest/Black Tusk	4	12	14
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>381</b>



Figure 8: Enrollment for School District #48

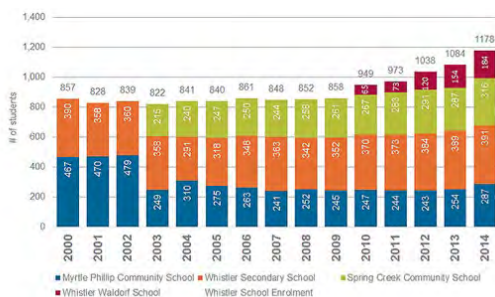


Figure 9: Regional Population Projections

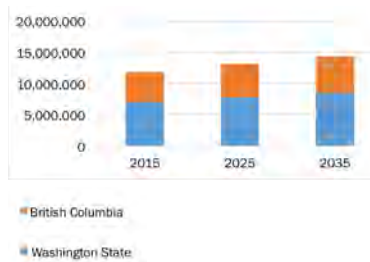
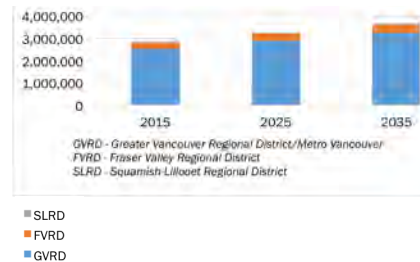


Figure 10: Sub Regional Population Projections



## 1.5.7 Supporting Data and Maps

To guide the prioritization process and assist with resort planning, the municipality conducted some base level research at the start of the RLMP process. This included making updates to detailed maps and an inventory of the assets in the municipal boundaries and surrounding area. It also included baseline research for the frequency and type of use for municipal facilities.

These maps and the charts with supporting data provided the most current information relevant to the RLMP process. The following information is included in the APPENDIX of this report.

### SUPPORTING DATA – PAGE 35

- RMOV Neighbourhood Park Inventory
- Municipal Recreation Facility Inventory: Comparable Communities in British Columbia
- Yearly Park Use by Field and Sport
- Additional Park and Recreation Facility Use Data
- Meadow Park Sports Centre Feasibility Report

### MAPS – PAGE 45

- Parks & Recreation System
- Indoor Facilities
- Valley Trail Network – Types
- Valley Trail Network – Lighting
- Valley Trail Network – Gaps
- Off Road Recreational Trails
- Outdoor Aquatic Recreation
- Non-Municipal Assets

## 1.5.8 Resort Community and Visitors

The key stakeholder groups that are integral to the RLMP planning process include:

- **Permanent residents:** those who own or rent property in Whistler and live there year-round
- **Second homeowners:** those who own property in Whistler but live primarily elsewhere in BC
- **Seasonal residents:** those who do not own property in Whistler and live there for only part of the year.

The stakeholder groups above are referred to as the resort community and are largely referenced as ‘residents’ in the RLMP reports.

Visitors are also an important stakeholder group for the RLMP planning process. Whistler hosts over 2.7 million visitors per year with approximately 5 million visitor days per year. On average, visitors represent half of the daily population of Whistler.

## 2 Key Findings, Master Plan Foundations

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### 2.1 Key Findings

Since the RLMP update process began in 2013 with a significant amount of community engagement and outreach, the community has identified a number of key findings that served as the basis to produce the final master plan. The main findings that emerged include:

- **Whistler's recreation experience** contributes to the brand promise of the resort. Recreation and leisure are integrated, and contribute to the range of experiences available at the natural and built gems in and around the area.
- These valuable gems are managed by different agencies, not always in a consistent fashion. As such, a **coordinated approach to managing these gems could offer greater value to the resort** than managing them as individual parcels. Some of these **gems could use polishing** to offer consistent, quality experiences with improved access, wayfinding and maintenance.
- There are opportunities to **explore synergies with Whistler's organizations and regional stakeholders**. These groups are generally open-minded and recognize that collaborative working relationships are essential to moving forward.
- Compared to other North American jurisdictions of less than 20,000 population **Whistler is ahead of the curve** in terms of its range and breadth of most natural, outdoor recreation and leisure offerings and many other jurisdictions have often looked to Whistler for trends and ideas. In some cases, Whistler's once leading edge offerings have **fallen behind** compared to other jurisdictions and some competing resorts. Whistler continues to look for trends and fresh ideas from other leading communities.
- User **satisfaction levels are high** with municipal infrastructure and services. There is little appetite to allow satisfaction levels to decline. Maintenance practices and by extension, resident and **visitor experiences vary across jurisdictional responsibilities**.
- The community expressed a strong desire to **generate efficiencies with existing infrastructure** – to “do more with what we've got”, but this approach will only address needs to a point.
- The success of Whistler as a resort destination, combined with other factors, is leading to **demand outpacing supply**. Plus, **new amenities will be required in order to maintain high satisfaction levels**. Some of these problems are already being experienced.
- Municipal assets play a strong role in providing easy access to recreation and sport, fostering lifelong activity participation, as well as developing **athletes and sport**. **These are components of Whistler's identity**. There is an opportunity to strengthen this in part through ongoing dialogue with partners such as Whistler Sport Legacies.
- With its mission to ‘grow sport’, recent designation as a provincial Viasport Training Centre, and commitment to physical literacy and the Canadian Sport For Life movement, **Whistler Sport Legacies** is well positioned to expand from a role of facility managers to one of a **regional activity, sport programming, development and administrative centre**, with potential to **increase economic value to the resort**.
- Major facilities or significant programming initiatives have corridor wide impacts. Planning needs to consider **local through regional implications and multi-purpose uses**.
- Understanding more **detailed recreation, leisure and sport user demographics** for municipal amenities will be important in future decision making.
- Across a broad spectrum of activities, opportunities exist to **enhance amenities for key target markets** including young families, active seniors, and those with introductory activity skill levels.
- The RLMP needs to consider the very long term and **protect for future needs and opportunities**, some of which may be currently unknown. Suitable lands in Whistler are in relatively short supply and are expensive to purchase and/or develop.



## 2.2 Master Plan Foundations

The RLMP process has considered a very broad spectrum of activities and generated over 300 action items of varying levels of importance and priority. Comparing action items against each other is challenging and potentially overwhelming when considering the scope, resources and investments required for each action. Looking forward over the next 10 years and even beyond, the RLMP was developed on the following foundations to build on and ensure continued resort success:

### ***Service and satisfaction levels***

Whistler's parks, trails and recreation facilities consistently produce high satisfaction levels for residents and visitors. Maintaining these levels is not only part of the resort's brand promise; it is essential to the resort's ongoing success. Service levels need to be adjusted for changes in demand or satisfaction levels. Maintaining and monitoring satisfaction levels is a long-term and ongoing operational priority.

### ***Areas of dissatisfaction or user conflict***

While satisfaction levels are consistently high, there are perennial areas of dissatisfaction and/or conflict, along with other possible emerging areas of concern. Addressing perennial issues, many of which can be addressed in the short term, will help 'turn the page' on these issues and improve staff efficiency. Being mindful of and responding appropriately to emerging concerns will help sustain satisfaction levels.

### ***Aging infrastructure***

Many of Whistler's recreation and leisure amenities were built in the 1980s and 90s. While they have been well maintained, there is a need to address failing, worn and generally out-of-date components. Reinvestment and renewal provides opportunities to address other issues, like new requirements, modernization, or re-establishing the amenity's relevance. Ongoing reinvestment in this area is required over the long term.



### **Capacity and crowding**

While satisfaction levels are high, they are at risk with more and more people using each amenity. The resort has successfully increased summer occupancy levels while regional and local populations have grown. This places more pressure on existing infrastructure, which may already be strained from demand. While there are some short-term, low-hanging solutions, these do not effectively address long-term needs. Adopting a long-term approach to capacity and crowding will better address these issues and help preserve user satisfaction.

### **Lakes: havens for relaxation**

Whistler's lakes are, for many residents and visitors, peaceful summer oases, often offering much-needed balance to the many adrenalin-based activities here. Without careful and thoughtful consideration, the lakes could evolve into a different type of character, which may not be a welcome change. Although the municipality does not directly manage lakes, continuing to preserve their experiential qualities, along with monitoring water quality, are essential to long-term summer success.

### **The Whistler Brand**

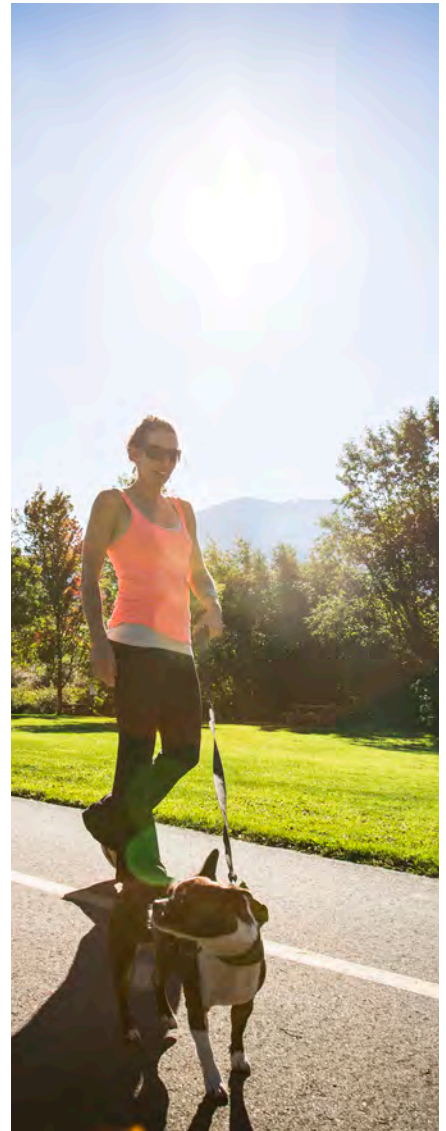
As a mountain resort playground, Whistler has long been known for its deep roots in ski, snowboard, golf, and mountain bike activities. Lesser-known but increasingly popular activities consistent with Whistler's reputation could be better leveraged to expand on the brand.

Similarly, Whistler is surrounded by a number of natural and built gems that many visitors perceive to be part of the resort's recreation experience. While other communities might embrace and leverage surrounding assets, these gems outside of Whistler need polishing to achieve similar standards for quality, access and maintenance; thus they are not integrated into the resort experience as much as they could be.

Another aspect of Whistler is its history of sport and athlete development. Many amateurs and pros, often with Whistler roots, have benefited from the resort's numerous accessible amenities and municipal facilities. There is an opportunity to work with partners and grow this part of Whistler's economy, both in terms of sport tourism and sport-related administration, development and athlete training.

### **Collaboration for success**

Much of Whistler's success is built on a shared vision and passion supported by a number of collaborative working relationships with resort partners. Continuing, furthering and establishing new positive relationships will be essential to effectively address long-term challenges related to land use, facilities, user experiences, project funding and collective impact.





## 3. Recommendations for Success

The RMOW is committed to long-term planning that ensures Whistler's continued success and fulfillment of the community's vision to be the premier mountain resort as we move toward sustainability. In the case of the RLMP, the process identified the aforementioned key findings and plan foundations to shape the master planning process. The following section provides context and detail on strategies and recommendations required to implement the RLMP.

### 3.1 RLMP Planning At A Glance

The following table illustrates how the RLMP, with its Vision, Goals, Focus Areas and Strategies, relate to and is aligned with Whistler2020, the Official Community Plan (OCP) and the Economic Partnership Initiative (EPI) planning policy initiatives.

Whistler's OCP as well as the community's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (Whistler2020) have both involved a great number of hours of community input, stakeholder dialogue and strategic planning. The OCP and Whistler2020 work together to articulate and enshrine our resort community's vision, values and shared commitment to collectively maintain a resilient, four-season tourism resort community and economy. While the OCP has regulatory consequences, Whistler2020 is a vision and policy that is aspirational, providing a broad strategic scope for our ongoing journey towards success and sustainability.

Through these planning processes, the community has determined five key community-wide planning priorities that provide the foundation of our strategic planning efforts.

These priorities articulate the highest level of our community Vision.

- Enriching Community Life
- Enhancing the Resort Experience
- Ensuring Economic Viability
- Protecting the Environment
- Partnering for Success

The RLMP is integrated with these priorities to remind us of the community vision and ensure that the master planning process continues to work toward these priorities.

The EPI was formed in 2013 to review the Whistler economy and develop a strategic medium-term plan designed to grow the resort community economy and encourage ongoing re-investment in Whistler. The EPI process identified four main objectives and outlined a number of key strategies with action opportunities in its Summary of Key Findings Report. Many of these strategies and actions pertain to recreation and leisure in the resort and were important considerations that shaped the direction of the RLMP.

Figure 11: RLMP Planning Context

Community Priorities Whistler2020	Enriching Community Life	Enhancing the Resort Experience	Protecting the Environment	Ensuring Economic Viability	Partnering for Suc- cess
Official Community Plan: Relevant Policies (generalized)	Develop and maintain a parks and trail system	Maximize public access to lakes and creeks	Maintain an open space system to preserve environmental amenities	Preserve recreation areas, trails or open spaces upon subdivision	
Economic Partnership Initiative (EPI) Vision	A prosperous resort economy that continues to support a healthy, sustainable resort community; and remains consis- tent with the unique ‘Whistler Brand’				
EPI Objectives	Encourage long-term resiliency and diversity in the resort product	Promote stable levels of overnight stays on a year-round basis	Protect and strengthen the core winter tourism product	Optimize the strategic alignment of resort partners and stakeholders	
RLMP VISION	Recognizing our mountain landscape and natural beauty, Whistler is a leader in offering high quality innovative recre- ation, leisure and sport activities that reflect the values of the resort community, achieve a balance between infrastruc- ture and the natural environment, and provide opportunities for tourism-based economic growth.				
RLMP GOALS	Add value to the resort over the short and long term Achieve greater efficiencies with limited resources Enrich resident and visitor experiences Provide diverse, affordable recreational opportunities for Whistler residents of all ages Respond to growth objectives and trends Address low satisfaction levels or gaps and reduce user conflicts Optimize existing assets Align or have synergies with other municipal or partner/stakeholder initiatives				
RLMP FOCUS AREAS	1. Maintain and Monitor	2. Improve Experiences	3. Plan	4. Support the Whistler Brand	5. Enhance Administration
RLMP KEY STRATEGIES	1.1 Continue to pro- vide efficient delivery of municipal services to maintain high resident and visitor satisfaction levels.  1.2 Ensure a balance between recreational needs and the natu- ral environment.  1.3 Protect the experiential qualities of valued natural assets.	2.1 Respond to proven negatives and areas of user conflict.  2.2 Address capacity and crowding issues  2.3 Support initia- tives that enhance existing experiences.	3.1 Conduct needs assessment and/ or other studies to expand, improve or build municipal facilities.  3.2 Ensure the provision of an ap- propriate amount of park and open space to meet long-term resort community needs.  3.3 Consider new as- sets to meet growing demands and retain resort differentiation.  3.4 Consider part- nership and where appropriate spons- orship opportunities to help build, fund, maintain, promote and operate new and existing facilities.	4.1 Encourage the delivery of an enhanced and con- sistent quality of rec- reational experience across jurisdictions  4.2 Leverage and support existing and emerging recreation and leisure activities that are consistent with and further the Whistler brand.  4.3 Acknowledge and foster Whistler’s growing high perfor- mance sport econ- omy and sport tourism opportunities.	5.1 Maintain com- mitments to public engagement and collaborative efforts.  5.2 Align and update municipal regulatory documents.  5.3 Consider new bylaws and policies where necessary to achieve RLMP goals and strategies.  5.4 Update relevant internal municipal standards, policies and supporting docu- ments.





## 3.2 RLMP Vision and Goals

### VISION

Since the last master plan was created for the RMOW's recreation and leisure assets in 1996, the resort has transformed significantly. Based on a number of community priorities and initiatives going forward, the RLMP has outlined the following vision for the next decade:

Recognizing our mountain landscape and natural beauty, Whistler is a leader in offering high quality innovative recreation, leisure and sport activities that reflect the values of the resort community, achieve a balance between infrastructure and the natural environment, and provide opportunities for tourism-based economic growth.



### GOALS

Through focus groups, stakeholder meetings and input from user surveys, these resulting goals were established to base key strategies and actions for the prioritization and implementation process:

- Add value to the resort over the short and long term
- Achieve greater efficiencies with limited resources
- Enrich resident and visitor experiences
- Provide diverse, affordable recreational opportunities for Whistler residents of all ages
- Respond to growth objectives and trends
- Address low satisfaction levels or gaps and reduce user conflicts
- Optimize existing assets
- Align or have synergies with other municipal or partner/stakeholder initiatives.



## 3.3 RLMP Focus Areas, Strategies

### FOCUS AREAS

Given the particularly high levels of satisfaction among residents and visitors, this master planning process sought to ensure that Whistler's recreation experience is maintained and enhanced where appropriate, while looking toward the future and building on the resort's success. The master planning process was designed around the following five focus areas:

1. Maintain and monitor service and satisfaction levels
2. Improve experiences
3. Plan for new opportunities in response to resort needs and economic activities
4. Support the Whistler brand
5. Enhance municipal administration, internal documents and processes.



## STRATEGIES

To provide guidance for short and long-term planning and ultimately, to achieve the goals outlined in the RLMP, the recommended actions have been shaped into 17 strategies within each of the five focus areas:

### **1 - Maintain and Monitor Service and Satisfaction Levels**

- 1.1 Continue to provide efficient delivery of municipal services to maintain high satisfaction levels.
- 1.2 Ensure a balance between recreational needs and the natural environment.
- 1.3 Protect the experiential qualities of valued natural assets.

### **2 - Improve Experiences**

- 2.1 Respond to proven negatives and areas of user conflict.
- 2.2 Address existing capacity and crowding issues.
- 2.3 Support initiatives that enhance existing experiences.

### **3 - Plan for new opportunities in response to resort needs and economic activities**

- 3.1 Conduct needs assessment and/or other studies to expand, improve or build municipal facilities.
- 3.2 Ensure the provision of an appropriate amount of park and open space to meet long-term resort community needs.
- 3.3 Consider new assets to meet growing demands and retain resort differentiation.
- 3.4 Consider partnership and where appropriate sponsorship opportunities to help build, fund, maintain, promote and operate new and existing facilities.

### **4 - Support the Whistler Brand**

- 4.1 Encourage the delivery of an enhanced and consistent quality of recreational experience across jurisdictions.
- 4.2 Leverage and support existing and emerging recreation and leisure activities that are consistent with and further the Whistler Brand.
- 4.3 Acknowledge and foster Whistler's growing high performance sport economy and sport tourism opportunities.

### **5 - Enhance municipal administration, internal documents and processes.**

- 5.1 Maintain commitments to public engagement and collaborative efforts.
- 5.2 Align and update municipal regulatory documents.
- 5.3 Consider new bylaws and policies where necessary to achieve RLMP goals and objectives.
- 5.4 Update relevant internal municipal standards, policies and supporting documents.

# 3.4    Timing and Resources

## TIMING

The recommended implementation for immediate, short, medium and long term priorities were developed within the following timelines:

Immediate	0 - 1 years	(December 2016)
Short	2 - 3 years	(2017, 2018)
Medium	4 - 5 years	(2019, 2020)
Long	6 - 10 years	(2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

**Immediate term:** wide consensus as a primary action that may or may not be underway. Financial and resource support linked to other community priorities.

**Short term:** highest cost/benefit, high priority and few barriers to initiation.

**Medium term:** requires lead-time for planning and securing funding, may be implemented incrementally, and are a higher priority than long-term.

**Long term:** actions that require a phased approach or significant lead-time for planning and securing resources. These tend to be less specific in deliverables and can be more aspirational in nature.

**Ongoing/Status quo:** actions that are part of normal working practices be they planning or operational in nature.

## RESOURCES

For specific strategies, best estimates are also noted for the required implementation resources, which also factored into the prioritization process. The following symbols are used to outline the resources required:

🕒	Priority requires larger public engagement and/or policy development process.
n/c	No change in existing human or capital requirements
\$	<\$100,000
\$\$	\$100,000 to \$1,000,000
\$\$\$	>\$1,000,000



## 3.5 Priority Directions and Actions

### 3.5.1 Recommended Action Opportunities

The first three phases of the recreation and leisure master planning process identified higher-level issues and potential directions. It captured key elements from the research and community engagement and draft findings were presented for the final master plan. These findings were summarized into recommended directions and actions for 20 categories of recreation and leisure programs and services.

A more detailed document, the **RLMP Detailed Recommendations**, includes additional information, including the current reality, rationale for investment, and more detailed actions required for each priority.

### 3.5.2 Focus Areas and Priority Actions

The following table outlines the priority actions within each strategy that were identified within the RLMP Detailed Recommendations. Using the key findings and plan foundations outlined in section 2, the table qualifies the many recommendations put forward for Whistler's parks and recreation assets, and it summarizes how the RLMP will guide decision-making through the municipality's annual budget process.

RECOMMENDED DIRECTION AND PRIORITY ACTIONS	TIMING	RESOURCES		SYNERGY WITH OTHER MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES
		Time	Capital	RLMP = RLMP Detailed Recommendations Report
Focus Area 1: Maintain and monitor service and satisfaction levels				
Key Strategy 1.1: Continue to provide efficient delivery of municipal services to maintain high satisfaction levels.				
Maintain existing municipal service levels across all activity areas. Adapt service levels in response to changes in demand and satisfaction levels. Includes but is not limited to recreation facilities, parks sanitation, landscape maintenance, snow clearing, geese management, lake water quality monitoring etc.	Status quo	n/c	n/c	RLMP all categories
Continue to use Community Life, Tourism Whistler, and municipal surveying to confirm satisfaction and use levels.	Status quo	n/c	\$	RLMP primarily Parks and Trails
Key Strategy 1.2: Ensure a balance between recreational needs, the natural environment and neighbourhood quality of life.				
Consider the natural environment and the Whistler Brand when planning new assets, managing existing assets, and when evaluating new commercial ventures.	Status quo	n/c	n/c	RLMP all categories
With senior government partners continue to help manage and direct use of lakes, rivers and their supporting infrastructure to maintain high satisfaction levels.	Status quo	n/c	n/c	RLMP Lakes
Communicate fisheries and boating regulations.	Short	n/c	n/c	RLMP Lakes, Rivers
Key Strategy 1.3: Protect the experiential qualities of valued natural assets.				
Expand means to communicate Fire Safe practices in all areas, particularly around popular forested lakeshores.	Ongoing	n/c	n/c	RLMP Lakes, Rivers FireSmart objectives
Monitor watercraft use levels on River of Golden Dreams and Whistler's lakes.	Ongoing	n/c	n/c	RLMP Lakes, Rivers
Continue to restrict vehicle access to Lost Lake Park beach area and support special transit service during peak summer months and not permit commercial watercraft rental at Lost Lake.	Status quo	n/c	n/c	RLMP Parks General, Lakes

### Focus Area 2: Improve experiences

#### Key Strategy 2.1: Respond to proven negatives and areas of user conflict.

Annually communicate public etiquette regarding parks, trails, dogs, River of Golden Dreams and lakes.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	RLMP Parks General, Dogs, Off Road Recreational Trails, Winter Nordic Trails, Lakes, Rivers
Develop strategies to address inappropriate and unlawful behavior in parks, including a 'park ranger' and or 'park host' program in select major parks.	Immediate	⌚	\$	RLMP Parks General
Develop and deploy significantly upgraded Way Finding and signage at municipal parks, and along the Valley Trail, Off Road Recreational Trails, and the Lost Lake Winter Nordic Trails.	Immediate - Short	n/c	\$\$	EPI 1.1.6 Whistler Welcome Strategy RLMP Parks General, Recreation Facilities, Off Road Trails, Winter Nordic Trails, Recreation Facilities
Add a washroom facility at the PassivHaus to address overcapacity and seasonal closure issues, and undertake other landscape and interior improvements as related to the Cultural Connector	Immediate - Short	n/c	\$\$	EPI 2.1 Cultural Connector RLMP Parks General, Off Road Recreational Trails, Winter Nordic Trails
Address dog issues in parks and on the Valley Trail network, which may involve expansion of new dog off leash areas.	Short - Medium	⌚	\$\$	RLMP Parks General, Dogs, Sport fields, Valley Trails

#### Key Strategy 2.2 Address existing capacity and crowding issues.

Communicate and balance both public and event use at parks.	Ongoing	n/c	n/c	RLMP Parks General
Support temporary reconfiguration and uses of facilities to increase capacity.	Ongoing	n/c	\$	RLMP Parks General, Sports fields
Utilize an online booking and cancellation procedure for field availability and bookings.	Short	⌚	\$	RLMP Sports fields, Recreation Facilities, Recreation Programs, Arts Culture and Heritage
Explore and implement strategies to reduce vehicle congestion issues at select parks and adjacent neighbourhoods.	Short	⌚	\$	RLMP Parks General Municipal Transportation Advisory Group
Identify and implement smaller, passive use amenities in desirable yet underutilized park and Valley Trail locations.	Short	n/c	\$\$-\$	RLMP Parks General, Valley Trails
Convert Meadow Park's single purpose sport fields to multi-purpose park or sport field use during subsurface infrastructure replacement.	Short	⌚	\$\$	RLMP Parks General, Sport fields
Reorganize and expand the Fitzsimmons Creek bike skills, bike jump park area.	Short	⌚	\$\$	RLMP Parks General, Valley Trails EPI 1.1.1 Cultural Connector
Explore opportunities with School District #48 to increase community use of school recreation facilities.	Medium	n/c	n/c	RLMP Recreation Programs

#### Key Strategy 2.3: Support initiatives that enhance existing experiences.

Continue to evaluate and improve accessibility, which supports the RMOW's goal to become an accessible and inclusive resort community.	Ongoing	⌚	\$\$-\$	RLMP Parks General, Recreation Facilities, Recreation Programs
Address stated gaps along the Valley Trail network as development opportunities or other synergies present themselves.	Ongoing	n/c	\$\$-\$-\$	EPI 1.1.1 Cultural Connector RLMP Valley Trails
Implement new ideas, trends, and low impact site activities as a way of diversifying park uses.	Ongoing	n/c	\$	RLMP Parks General
Continue to encourage third-party camps especially during off-peak times.	Ongoing	n/c	n/c	RLMP Recreation Facilities
Explore opportunities to improve and increase food service at parks and beaches.	Immediate	⌚	n/c	RLMP Parks General. Existing contracts expire October 2015
With partners develop a prioritized Forest Service Road and gate access strategy.	Short - Medium	⌚	n/c	RLMP Whistler Brand, Off Road Recreational Trails, Rivers, Fishing, Rock Climbing
With partners develop improved access to the Singing Pass trail in Garibaldi Provincial Park.	Short	⌚	n/c	EPI 4.3 Ensure all Sectors Embrace the Importance of High Quality Guest Experiences RLMP Whistler Brand, Off Road Recreational Trails

Repair and upgrade existing two phases of skatepark.	Short	n/c	\$\$	RLMP Skate Park
Optimize use of Whistler's existing recreation, arts, culture and heritage facilities.	Short	⌚	n/c	RLMP Arts, Culture, Heritage
Implement Meadow Park Sports Centre enhancements as outlined in the Meadow Park Sports Centre Feasibility report in 6.2.5 of this report	Short - Long	⌚	\$\$\$\$	RLMP Facilities MPSC Feasibility Study
Work closely with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to improve the road cycling experience on Highway 99 and the Callaghan Valley Road.	Short	⌚	n/c	EPI 1.1.5 Actively support the growth of road cycling in Whistler RLMP Road Cycling Whistler Cycling Plan
Encourage the delivery of an enhanced and consistent quality of recreational experience across jurisdictions.	Medium - Long	⌚	n/c	EPI 4.3 Ensure all Sectors Embrace the Importance of High Quality Guest Experiences RLMP Whistler Brand
Develop 'destination' dog off-leash areas in deficient areas.	Medium - Long	n/c	\$\$\$	RLMP Parks General
Continue to test and develop programs at the former Hostel Site that balance cultural initiatives with recreational uses.	Status quo	n/c	n/c	EPI 2.1

### Focus Area 3: Plan for new opportunities in response to resort needs and economic activities

#### Key Strategy 3.1: Conduct needs assessment and/or other studies to expand, improve or build municipal facilities.

On a park-by-park basis, assess overall park use levels, needs, and functionality; identify opportunities to increase park capacity as well as other potential improvements. Prioritize improvements based upon capacity, guest experience, neighbourhood impacts and ageing infrastructure criteria.	Short to long	⌚	\$	RLMP Parks General
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#### Key Strategy 3.2: Ensure the provision of an appropriate amount of park and open space to meet long-term resort community needs.

Protect and retain existing parkland assets to provide for future needs and uses.	Ongoing	n/c	n/c	RLMP Parks General
Explore a long term park acquisition strategy.	Medium	⌚	n/c	RLMP Parks General
Develop a parkland Acquisition Reserve Bylaw within the Five Year Financial Plan	Medium		\$\$\$\$	RLMP Parks General

#### Key Strategy 3.3: Consider new assets to meet growing demands and retain resort differentiation.

With appropriate agencies continue to implement a phased non-motorized multi-use recreational alpine trail network in the Sproatt/Rainbow area that considers environmental, watershed, tenure, and user attributes.	Ongoing	n/c	\$\$	RLMP Off Road Trails RMOW 21 Mile Creek Source Water Protection Plan
With relevant partners explore opportunities and feasibility to develop an indoor multi-sport publically accessible facility.	Immediate	⌚	\$	EPI 1.2 Expand Weather Independent Attraction RLMP Sport fields, Tennis, Recreation Facilities; RLAC Priority 1 (2015)
Develop an additional grass or artificial turf rectangular field to reduce unsustainable wear on existing fields and meet growing demand.	Immediate	n/c	\$\$	RLMP Sport fields
Help facilitate development of a volunteer run BMX track.	Immediate	n/c	\$	RLMP BMX
Identify potential new areas for recreational trail development as part of a Trail Master Plan process.	Short	⌚	n/c	RLMP Off Road Trails
With partners explore opportunities to improve hiking access to Singing Pass via the Fitzsimmons Creek corridor.	Short	⌚	n/c	RLMP Off Road Trails
Continue to explore dialogue opportunities with BC Parks to allow cross-country mountain biking trail access to the Singing Pass area of Garibaldi Provincial Park.	Short - medium	⌚	n/c	RLMP Off Road Trails
Develop an off road Sea to Sky Recreational Trail connection between the CalCheak Recreation Site and the Whistler Bungee Bridge.	Long	⌚	\$\$	RLMP Off Road Trails



Develop an extended network of interconnected alpine recreational trails and hut-to-hut possibilities in the Whistler area.	Long	n/c	\$\$	EPI 1.1.4 RLMP Off Road Trails
<b>Key Strategy 3.4: Consider partnership and where appropriate, sponsorship opportunities to help build, fund, maintain, promote and operate new and existing facilities.</b>				
Establish relationships early to nurture potential future strategic opportunities.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	RLMP Many Activity areas RMOW Pilot Sponsorship Strategy
<b>Focus Area 4: Support the Whistler Brand</b>				
<b>Key Strategy 4.1: Encourage the delivery of an enhanced and consistent quality of recreational experience across jurisdictions.</b>				
Establish models for collaboration with various land management agencies that enhance visitor experiences within their recreational and natural assets.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	EPI Strategy 4.3 Ensure all Sectors Embrace the Importance of High Quality Guest Experiences RLMP Whistler Brand, Off Road Recreational Trails, Lakes, Rivers, Fishing
<b>Key Strategy 4.2: Leverage and support existing and emerging recreation and leisure activities that are consistent with and further the Whistler Brand.</b>				
Continue to collaborate and market with resort partners and provincial tourism organizations.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	EPI 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 RLMP many areas
Continue to facilitate third-party programs and events provided by commercial operators.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	RLMP Parks General, Valley Trails, Off Road Trails
Recognize other recreation and leisure assets when considering new plans, referrals, and development applications.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	RLMP Whistler Brand
Identify opportunities to elevate minor activities that demonstrate a return on investment.	Short - Long	⌚	n/c	RLMP many areas
<b>Key Strategy 4.3: Acknowledge and foster Whistler's growing high performance sport economy and sport tourism opportunities.</b>				
Continue to facilitate third-party sport training programs and lessons.	Ongoing	n/c	n/c	RLMP Parks General, Sports fields, Valley Trails, Off Road Trails, Recreation Facilities
Support opportunities for annual high profile sport events.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	RLMP many areas
Incorporate physical literacy knowledge and program identification into applicable recreation programs in accordance with the Canadian Sport 4 Life Long term athlete development model.	Short	⌚	n/c	RLMP Recreation Programming
Work closely with Tourism Whistler and the Whistler Sport Legacies Society in development of sport tourism, potential facilities, and programming.	Short - Long	⌚	n/c	RLMP – Sports fields, Tennis, Recreation Facilities, Recreation Programming, BMX, Road Cycling, Off Road Trails, Nordic Winter Trails
<b>Focus Area 5: Enhance municipal administration, internal documents and processes</b>				
<b>Key Strategy 5.1: Maintain commitments to public engagement and collaborative efforts.</b>				
Continue to engage the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee in relevant aspects of recreation and leisure.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	Corporate Plan
Engage the public and identify stakeholder groups when considering capital projects or areas of significant operational change.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	Corporate Plan
Identify synergies between the RLMP and other municipal documents and initiatives.	Ongoing	n/c	n/c	EPI 1.1.1
Continue to engage the Trails Planning Working Group as the primary forum for multi partner off-road recreational trail planning discussions.	Ongoing	⌚	n/c	RLMP Of Road Trails
Develop internal referral system that captures advisory input from staff, the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee, the Forest and Wildlife Advisory Committee and the Crown where appropriate, and considers potential impacts to residents, guests, adjacent lands and facilities, while considering public safety, asset capacity and the natural environment when reviewing proposals.	Immediate	⌚	n/c	RLMP Commercial Services

Consider restoring the Whistler Cycling Committee as a forum to discuss Whistler specific municipal and Highway 99 road cycling issues.	Short	🕒	n/c	EPI 1.1.5 Actively support the growth of road cycling in Whistler RLMP Road Cycling Whistler Cycling Plan
<b>Key Strategy 5.2: Align and update municipal regulatory documents.</b>				
Review and update municipal regulatory documents as they pertain to recreation and leisure assets and operational needs.	Immediate	🕒	n/c	
<b>Key Strategy 5.3: Consider new bylaws and policies where necessary to achieve RLMP goals and strategies.</b>				
Develop an e-bike policy through stakeholder engagement that also monitors ongoing technology advances and studies in other jurisdictions.	Immediate	🕒	n/c	RLMP Commercial Services, Valley Trails, Off Road Trails
Utilize a dog 'care and control' type of bylaw approach for the majority of the municipality.	Short - Medium	🕒	\$	RLMP Parks General, Dogs, Parks
Increase by-law enforcement where required.	Medium - Long	🕒	\$-\$-\$	RLMP Parks General, Dogs, Parks
<b>Key Strategy 5.4: Update relevant internal municipal standards, policies and supporting documents.</b>				
Develop a municipal Park and Trail Signage Manual.	Immediate	🕒	\$	EPI 1.3.3 Way Finding and subsequent Master Way Finding Strategy; RLMP Parks General, Valley Trail, Off Road Recreational Trails, Winter Nordic Trails
Update, address gaps, and maintain a complete set of park and trail construction, standard drawings and specifications document.	Medium	🕒	n/c	RLMP Parks General, Valley Trails, Off Road Trails
Update the Whistler Trail Standards document.	Medium	🕒	n/c	RLMP Off Road Trails
Develop a set of resort and neighbourhood level park standards.	Long	🕒	n/c	RLMP Parks General
Periodically review and update the Recreation and Leisure Master Plan.	Long	🕒	\$	RLMP All Areas

The above priority actions are described in more detail in the supporting [RLMP Detailed Recommendations](#) document. It contains all of the recommendations captured in from community engagement for 20 categories of the RMOW's parks and recreation programs and amenities.

A number of maps and charts that provide context and provide supporting data for the recommended strategies and actions are shown in the APPENDIX of the RLMP.

#### SUPPORTING DATA – PAGE 35

- 6.3.1 *RMOW Neighbourhood Park Inventory*
- 6.3.2 *Municipal Recreation Facility Inventory: Comparable Communities in British Columbia*
- 6.3.3 *Yearly Park Use by Field and Sport*
- 6.3.4 *Additional Park and Recreation Facility Use Data*
- 6.3.5 *Meadow Park Sports Centre Feasibility Report*

#### MAPS – Page 45

- 6.2.1 *Parks & Recreation System*
- 6.2.2 *Indoor Facilities*
- 6.2.3 *Valley Trail Network – Types*
- 6.2.4 *Valley Trail Network – Lighting*
- 6.2.5 *Valley Trail Network – Gaps*
- 6.2.6 *Off Road Recreational Trails*
- 6.2.7 *Outdoor Aquatic Recreation*
- 6.2.8 *Non-Municipal Assets*



## 4 Implementation Approach

With resort growth over the last 40 years, recreation and leisure amenities have been provided with a focus on providing essential resort assets that were largely funded through the development process in a relatively compact development footprint. This approach has worked extremely well. Amenities are of real value to the resort community, are relatively close to each other, and maintain Whistler's natural environment.

In the current climate, this delivery model must adapt in response to available funding, operational costs, available land, land costs, higher summer visitation, and year-over-year hotel occupancy increases. The focus now should be on partnering to develop and operate new amenities, and better distribute summer and winter recreation users across the breadth of the resort.

### 4.1 Advancing Initiatives

Every year the municipality considers many projects for implementation and usually these initiatives originate in municipal planning processes and approved work plans. Occasionally, new initiatives arise that were not foreseen but require attention over other municipal priorities.

The rationale for advancing projects onto staff work plans and into the municipal budget process is based upon numerous variables, some of which are relatively static, others may become more or less important or evolve over time. Variables include economic conditions, available funds, staff resources, synergies with other initiatives, ideas, reports, committee recommendations, and the condition of existing assets. The Key Findings, Plan Foundations, Goals and Strategies identified in section 2 and 3 are additional variables against which a recommended action might be vetted.

Through senior staff discussions, potential initiatives are ultimately incorporated into work plans and if capital funds are required, these are ranked and nominated into the preliminary stages of the municipal budget process. Draft budgets are vetted through a public consultation process. After Council adopts the budget, each division's department allocations are then approved and successful initiatives are advanced.

Council, the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee, and municipal staff will take into consideration the priorities and recommended actions of this RLMP. These will be weighed against other resort community initiatives and aspirations.



## 4.2 Funding for RLMP Projects

A range of funding sources is required to implement the RLMP projects. The main sources of municipal funds include taxes, reserve funds, development / rezoning charges and contributions from developers, and revenues. Grants, and private donations are also potential means to fund projects. Most of the funding for planning, development and operations is included in the municipality's capital budget that is outlined in the five-year financial plan, in most cases user fees and/or local taxes help offset ongoing operational costs of projects.

### 4.2.1 Municipal Budget and Reserve Funds

The RMOW's budget balances municipal revenues with expenditures and reserve transfers to pay for municipal services and to save for future expenses. Alongside the annual budget, the RMOW's Long Term Financial Plan is a policy document that sets out a series of principles and policies that guide decision making necessary to address financial challenges, remain competitive, and achieve Whistler's overall vision.

Many projects require capital budget funding in order to advance. Typically, parks and recreation projects are funded from reserve funds including the Recreation Works Reserve which itself is funded through taxes and development cost charges.

From an operational perspective, in 2012 and 2013, parks and recreation made up approximately 11 percent of total municipal expenditures. The total amount increased slightly in 2014 to 12.13 percent of the total. Of the 2014 department expenditures, 4.15 percent were used for the Meadow Park Sports Centre, 5.65 percent were used for parks operations, 2 percent were recreation and 0.33 percent went to resort parks planning.

As of 2014, for every \$100,000 of assessed property value, a Whistler homeowner contributes approximately \$46 for Parks and Recreation expenditures. The dollar amount of property tax funding increased by 9.51 percent from 2013 to 2014. This was driven by the 7.93 percent increase in year-over-year operating costs and by non-tax revenue sources increasing at a smaller percentage than expenditures.

### 4.2.2 Development and Rezoning Process

Through the planning and development process the RMOW, via the Local Government Act and the Land Title Act, has the ability to require developers to provide public amenities as a condition of awarding development rights. In general terms this can occur in the subdivision and rezoning processes, and to a lesser extent the development permit processes,

While the scale and scope of amenities varies with size of development, in Whistler this ability has been critical in the delivery of many public amenities, and has contributed to our success as a resort community. For example, funds secured through the development approval process provided much of the funding for construction of the Meadow Park Sports Centre. The subdivision and rezoning process that created the Spring Creek neighbourhood required, among other amenities, the construction of 3 km of illuminated Valley Trail between Creekside and Spring Creek and the Valley Trail highway underpass at Creekside.

These approaches are a means to provide significant public amenities required primarily by the new development and reduce or eliminate the construction cost to the general taxpayers. Operating costs of these amenities, however, are typically borne by the taxpayers.

### 4.2.3 Additional Sources of Funding

#### **FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GRANT FUNDS**

Certain projects qualify for grants from various departments within the federal or provincial governments. Often, the projects would not have moved forward without these important financial contributions. Recent examples include Whistler Olympic Plaza, funded in part by Canadian Heritage as a legacy from the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Its pavilion, great lawn and accessible playground have become well-used amenities for both residents and visitors alike. Similarly the 1,200-metre section of the Valley Trail from Spring Creek to Cheakamus Crossing was funded by the Towns for Tomorrow



program, with contributions from both the provincial and federal governments.

### PROVINCIAL RESORT MUNICIPALITY INITIATIVE FUNDS

Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) funds are important to the RMOW's budget allowing investment into ongoing and new projects and programs to support tourism. The RMOW has been given the responsibility of investing these funds in programs and projects that enhance resort programming and resort infrastructure leading to increased visitation and enhanced visitor experience.

The RMI funds are administered based on a Resort Development Strategy, which defines how the community intends to meet the RMI program objectives, outlines the planned RMI expenditures, and plans how the resort will track ongoing results attributed to the annual expenditures. Provincial approval is required for all proposed RMI investment re-allocations.

Securing this significant funding enables Whistler to increase its investment in tourism related programs and infrastructure. The RMOW has received RMI funds since 2006 and projects that are eligible for RMI investment must be reviewed and approved on an annual basis. The Province has confirmed RMI funding for approved projects until 2017.

### PRIVATE FUNDS

Sometimes, projects and facilities can be supported in full or in part from private funds. Over the years, the municipality has been careful to limit sponsorship opportunities of municipal assets to ensure a natural and uncluttered environment throughout the resort. In September 2014, council approved a new Whistler Sponsorship Policy and authorized the initiation of a Sponsorship Pilot Project to test ideas for sponsorship of select municipal programs, facilities and assets.

## 4.3 Current Status of Projects

Since the master planning process began, several of the recommended directions and actions were identified for immediate or short-term prioritization. Through the municipality's annual budget and work plan processes, these initiatives have been approved and municipal staff are working on their delivery:

#### Parks

Whistler Skate Park: upgrade existing two phases, engagement for expansion plan.

BMX Park: assist volunteer efforts in BMX track development.

Parks: improved designated dog off-leash areas.

Parks: improved food opportunities in major resort parks.

#### Trails

Alpine Trails: collaborate with partners to implement Phase 1 in the Sproatt / Rainbow area.

Valley Trail: address gaps in trail network.

Valley Trail and Recreation Trails: plan for growth in electric assist bike use.

#### Facilities

Meadow Park Sports Centre: upgrades and enhancements for pool, roof

replacement, lighting retrofit, life cycle study and feasibility study.

### Other

Way Finding: develop preliminary park and trail signage manual.

Review process: establish evaluation criteria when considering new or renewed commercial recreation business proposals and Crown referrals.

The RLMP APPENDIX includes detailed maps of the existing parks system, trails network, recreation facilities and outdoor aquatic areas for additional context and scope related to the projects.

## 4.4 Monitoring Key Performance Indicators

The true measure of the efficacy of the actions recommended within this plan is ultimately only demonstrated through the impact they have on key identified performance indicators. The community of Whistler has a strong history of tracking progress and publishing results. The following tools will be leveraged to measure performance over the implementation of the RLMP.

### 4.4.1 Community Monitoring

Since 1993, the RMOW has been monitoring community activities to gain insights into the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the community. Now, 85 indicators that are used to measure and track progress are available online at [whistler.ca/monitoring](http://whistler.ca/monitoring). Data is compiled on an annual basis through a variety of channels including municipal operations, Tourism Whistler, BC Hydro, BCStats and Stats Canada, and the Whistler Community Life Survey.

The program was originally developed to support Whistler's Comprehensive Development Plan, which established policies for the creation and implementation of a resort monitoring system. During the Whistler2020 vision process, the community monitoring program was expanded and substantively informed through extensive community engagement processes to determine a variety of targets. The RMOW has been presenting progress towards these targets annually since 2005.

### 4.4.2 Annual Whistler Community Life Survey

The RMOW's Community Life Tracking Survey is an important component of Whistler's community monitoring program designed to:

- Support transparency and accountability in municipal operations
- Inform decision-making
- Facilitate the measurement of trends over time

Each year, a third party administers a telephone and online survey to capture resident satisfaction in a number of categories. In the category of arts, culture and recreation, the following data will be monitored to track outcomes for the RLMP:

- Opportunities available for recreational physical activities
- The selection of arts and cultural events and opportunities
- Walking and biking routes, i.e. Valley Trail
- Access to Nature
- Access to Parks such as Rainbow Park, Lakeside Park, Alpha Lake Park
- Atmosphere and Ambiance of Whistler Village
- Overall Satisfaction with Whistler as a Place to Live

The 2014 survey results were consistent with previous measures, with almost all people in Whistler satisfied with the opportunities available for recreational physical activities, with no significant changes compared with previous years.





### 4.4.3 User Satisfaction Surveys

Periodically, the RMOW will develop and implement surveys to track specific data needs or a segment of users for parks and recreation amenities. The results of these surveys will be cross-referenced and linked to [whister.ca/monitoring](http://whister.ca/monitoring) data.

In 2011, a Parks and Trails survey was conducted with the following goals and objectives:

- Acquiring in-depth information about parks and trails use, drilling down further than related Tourism Whistler surveys;
- Understanding park and trail user profiles;
- Determining park and trail user satisfaction levels;
- Determining what RMOW staff could improve upon, and
- Informing future priorities and decision-making.

A municipal Parks User Survey was conducted in 2014 to measure satisfaction of 957 users at Whistler's six major resort parks.

A smaller municipal Trails User Survey was conducted in 2014 for 84 users on four of Whistler's off-road recreational bike trails.

This data was used to inform the priorities outlined in this RLMP



### 4.4.4 Visitor Satisfaction and Promotion Surveys

Tourism Whistler tracks visitor satisfaction and promotion metrics annually. Additional questions in the visitor experience surveys capture more specific data about activity participation including the use of parks and trails.

Visitor satisfaction captures a visitor's overall experience in Whistler, which is essential for ensuring long-term tourism growth. Capturing perceived experience reveals visitors' feelings about their entire trip and influences whether visitors will return and promote the resort community via word of mouth.

Visitor promotion scores reflect the net volume of past visitors promoting the community as a place to visit as well as the overall visitor experience. The majority of first-time visitors select a travel destination based on these word of mouth references and so promoting a destination through word of mouth increases the likelihood of future visitation by others.



### 4.4.5 Seasonal Visitor Surveys

Tourism Whistler also tracks visitor experience data in each season. This includes detailed questions on measures such as demographics, activity participation, and expenditures per visit. The seasonal visitor surveys will highlight important metrics to monitor as the RLMP is implemented.

Visitor numbers provide an understanding of the health of the tourism economy, as well as the popularity the community as a tourism destination, quality of the service levels, and the perceived value of tourism offerings.

Whistler achieved a record 2.7 million visitors in 2014, which is a 13 percent increase over 2013 and reflects a fairly steady incremental increase in visitation since 2002. With overall visitor numbers trending upward, this may put pressure on the maintenance and use of existing amenities in the community.

In particular, record highs for both number of visitors and room nights to the resort are tracking in each of the summer months and even in typical shoulder seasons. The increases, noted both on weekends and midweek, are likely to put pressure on the waterfront parks and trail systems, mostly when the weather is optimal.





## 5. Conclusion

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### 5.1 Acknowledgements

This master plan, which had not been updated since the 1996 Parks Vision Master Plan, required an extensive amount of collaboration and consultation to determine the recommended directions and actions in the RLMP. The RMOW's Resort Experience division would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions to the master planning process.

#### PROVINCE OF BC

Since 2006, the Province of B.C. has supported many recreation and leisure infrastructure projects through its Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) grant. RMI funds are an important supplement to the RMOW's budget allowing investment into ongoing and new projects and programs to support tourism.

#### RECREATION AND LEISURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members of the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee provide direction and advice to Council on matters related to the provision and delivery of indoor and outdoor recreation and leisure opportunities services and issues. The committee was consulted regularly throughout the RLMP process and participated in a many focus group meetings.

#### FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

RMOW staff convened a series of focus groups with a range of stakeholders and key users of the recreation and leisure amenities throughout the RLMP planning process. Their input and in depth knowledge was critical to develop the draft directions and actions for the master plan.

Alpine Café	School District 48	Whistler Nordics XC Ski Club
Alpine Club of Canada Whistler Chapter	Seeds Consulting	Whistler Off-Road Cycling Association
Backroads Whistler	Sk8 Cave	Whistler Old-Timers
Blackcomb Snowmobile	Team Whistler (Road Cycling)	Whistler Pizza Café
Cheakamus Community Forest	Tourism Whistler	Whistler Racquet Club
Cross Country Connection	Village of Pemberton	Whistler Roller Girls Society
District of Squamish	Wedge Rafting	Whistler Rowing Club
Dups Burritos	Whistler All Start Hockey	Whistler Sailing Association
Local Skateboard community	Whistler Alliance for Cultural Tourism	Whistler Scouts
Member Whistler Angling Club	Whistler Animals Galore	Whistler Skating Club
Members of local and regional kayak community	Whistler Blackcomb	Whistler Sport Legacies Society
Mountain Bike Tour Operator	Whistler BMX Club	Whistler Squash Club
Moving Mountains for Children Society	Whistler Core Fitness Centre	Whistler Taekwondo
Quattro Aquatic Fitness	Whistler Disk Golf Club	Whistler Tennis Association
Recreation and Trails Sites BC (Ministry of Lands and Natural Resource Operations)	Whistler Football Association	Whistler Wood Fire Pizza Spectrum
	Whistler Men's Recreation Hockey League	Skateparks Inc.
	Whistler Minor Hockey	Whistler Youth Soccer Association

#### PHOTO CREDITS

Justa Jeskova  
Tourism Whistler / Mike Crane



## 5.2 Next Steps

Since the community's 1996 Parks Vision Master Plan was implemented, Whistler has experienced exceptional growth and a rapid period of development. This comprehensive master plan – which is interwoven with existing policy documents, regional context, and the Whistler Brand encompasses recreation, parks, trails, lakes and rivers, facilities, and programs. It includes a complete inventory of these municipal assets, a first for the community. The master planning process has provided much-needed information and insight as to how these assets are managed and co-managed on behalf of residents and visitors.

The RLMP provides the community direction by:

- Identifying the guiding direction for the protection, enhancement, strategic development, and operational delivery of existing amenities, programming and related services;
- Classifying current and future needs;
- Providing strategic direction of economic value to the resort community; and
- Establishing priorities for Whistler's park, trail and recreation facilities over the next 10 years

The RLMP implementation also encompasses monitoring and reviewing key performance indicators related to the master plan's stated goals to:

- Add value to the resort over the short and long term;
- Enrich the visitor experience;
- Address low satisfaction levels or gaps and reduce user conflicts;
- Optimize existing assets;
- Achieve greater efficiencies with limited resources;
- Respond to growth objectives and trends; or
- Align or have synergies with other municipal, partner or stakeholder initiatives.

Data captured from community and visitor surveys as well as from user surveys will guide any required adjustments to the priority actions of the RLMP. The annual budget process and economic realities of the resort will also direct available funding for future actions.

Investments in Whistler's parks and recreation infrastructure have been made very strategically over the years, and the community has benefitted greatly from federal and provincial government grants and from collaboration with property developers. In particular, the Province of British Columbia's RMI investments have contributed close to \$60 million in funds to Whistler since 2007.

As a community of about 10,500 residents, Whistler has an incredible array of facilities and amenities when compared other municipalities of the same size. Whistler residents and visitors have the opportunity to experience a broad spectrum of recreation and leisure assets and activities in our mountain playground.

Recreation and leisure are integral components of the Whistler Brand, which is the visitor experience that sets Whistler apart from other places and resorts in North America.

Given the particularly high levels of satisfaction among residents and visitors, this RLMP is designed to ensure that Whistler's recreation experience is maintained and enhanced where appropriate. Initiatives that further the resort's economic goals and that strengthen the Whistler Brand will be prioritized for the most optimal return on investment. It is anticipated that the RLMP will be significantly updated in 10 years time.





## 6 Appendix

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Essential to any major plan is a complete inventory of existing conditions. These can take the form of maps, diagrams, graphs and spreadsheets, and are included in this Appendix for reference purposes.

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### 6.2 Supporting Data

To guide the prioritization process and assist with resort planning, the municipality conducted some base level research at the start of the RLMP process and summarized the following charts:

- 6.2.1 *RMOW Neighbourhood Park Inventory*: details the type, zoning, size, scope, features and amenities at each of Whistler's major and neighbourhood parks.
- 6.2.2 *Municipal Recreation Facility Inventory - Comparable Communities in British Columbia*: compares municipal recreation facilities with 13 other communities in British Columbia of a similar size.
- 6.2.3 *Yearly Park Use by Field and Sport*: breaks down the total bookings for municipal fields by sport and by month.
- 6.2.4 *Additional Park and Recreation Facility Use Data*: breaks down the total bookings for municipal facilities by sport and by month.
- 6.2.5 *Meadow Park Sports Centre Feasibility Report*: overview and executive summary from key recommendations in the recent third-party feasibility study for the Meadow Park Sports Centre.



## 6.2.1 RMOW Neighbourhood Park Inventory

Resort Municipality of Whistler Neighbourhood Parks: Park Amenities															
					OWNERSHIP										
		Address	Legal Description	Zoning	RMOW	CROWN	GIS Description	Play Structure	Sand Play	Swings (# seats)	On V-trail	Wash Rooms	Mixed Use ball court	Tennis Court	Basketball
1	Balsam Park	6312 Easy St	19202DL3862	LP1			Whistler municipal	2	•	4	•	•			
2	Bayly Park	1015 Jane Lakes Rd/1005Legacy Way	DL8065/EPP277/DL8073	RR1			Lease	1	•	2	•	•	•	1	1
3	Cheakamus Common	1070 Legacy Way		RLCCD			Crown municipal		•		•				
4	Bottomless Pond Park	2140 Whistler Road	LMP22326DL5413	RM10			Crown municipal								
5	Eva Lake Park	2113 Castle Dr; 2 lots	19838DL4978 / 22776DL7288	LP1/RM12			Crown municipal; 2nd site is just RMOW	1	•						
6	Emerald Park	9225 Emerald Dr	DL3627	LP1			Crown municipal	2	•	4		porta	•		0.5
7	Green Lake Park	9225 Lakeshore Dr.	12812DL3625	LP1			Whistler municipal					•			
8	Marmot Park	1515 Spring Creek Dr	LMP49873DL7924	LP1			Crown municipal	1	•		•	•			
9	Millar's Pond Park	2717 Millar's Pond Cres	LMP10758DL3556	LP1			Crown municipal	2	•	4	•		•	2	0.5
10	Rainbow sub'n Park A	8251 Crazy Canuck Dr	Plan BCP38413 Lot8 DL7302	CD1			Crown municipal	not developed							
11	Rainbow sub'n Park B	8925 Highway 99	Plan BCP38413 Lot3 DL7302	CD1			Crown municipal	not developed			•				
	Snowflake Park	6295 Palmer Dr.	22385DL4752	RT2?			Crown municipal								
13	Taluswood Tennis	2156 Nordic Dr	LMP16203DL4979	RR1			Crown municipal							2	
14	White Gold Park *	7390 Fitzsimmons Rd S	DL5028	RR1			Crown municipal	1	•	tire	•		•	1	0.5
Generally, neighbourhood parks feature play equipment (including swings), lawn area and picnic tables. Some include washrooms, tennis courts and half courts.															
* White Gold Park is part of Lost Lake Park. The playground and tennis court area called White Gold Park is noted as being equivalent to a neighbourhood park. The area is included in the Lost Lake Park total.															
** The potential gap note is subjective, based on comparison with other neighbourhood parks. It does not suggest a development recommendation.															
Community (Major) Parks															
1	Alpha Lake Park	2149 Lake Placid Rd	19481DL4749 / BCP402DL4749	LP1/LP3			Whistler municipal	1	•	2	•	•		2	0.5
2	Fitz. (Peace Park)	7390 Fitz Rd S.	DL5028	RR1			Crown municipal				•				
3	Fitz (Rebagliati Park)	combined sites	"	"			Crown municipal					•			
4	Lakeside Park (4 lots)	3375 Lakeside Rd	multiple	LP1			Crown municipal; incl. water lot lease	1	beach			•	•		
5	Lost Lake Park * (6 lots)	4700 Lost Lake Rd	multiple DL 4889/DL5028	LP1/RR1			Whistler municipal					•	•		
6	Meadow Park	8625 Highway 99	DL6106	LP1			Whistler municipal	1	•	4	•	•	•	•	
7	Rainbow Park	5778 Alta Lake Rd	DL2110	RR1			Whistler municipal					•	•		
8	Spruce Grove Park (2sites2parts)	7328 Kirkpatrick Way	DL3860/DL4105/DL4889	LP1			Whistler municipal	1	•	•	•	•			
9	Village Park (3 sites)	4345BlackcombWay/4328Main	LMP219DL5275	RR1			Crown municipal					•	•		
10	Wayside Park	2701 Hwy 99 (2 sites & Hwy row)	DL3618/DL5695 Crown w/f	LP1			Crown municipal & water lot					•	•		
11	Whistler Olympic Plaza	4365 Blackcomb Way	LMP219DL5275/LMP2400DL5275	LM1/CM1			Crown municipal & covenants on strata lots	2		3	•	2			
	Myrtle Philip Fields	SD#48; 6195 Lorimer Rd	LMP9889 DL1750	RR1				1	•		•			4	•
	Spring Creek Field	1513 Spring Creek Drive					} School District								
	Whistler Sec. Fields														
* White Gold Park is part of Lost Lake Park. The playground and tennis court area called White Gold Park is noted as being equivalent to a neighbourhood park.															
Special / Undeveloped Parks															
1	Alta Lake Park	5560 Old Mill Lane	LMP41222DL2246	RR1			Crown provincial & water lease					• in house			
2	Alta Lake Station (2 sites)	5528 Old Mill Ln/5590 Alta Lk Rd	208540DL2246/LMP41222DL2246	LP1/RR1			Whistler municipal					•			
3	Alta Lake Former Hostel	5678 Alta Lake Road	Plan 14195 Lot B DL2246 Grp1	LR6			Crown municipal						in bldg		
4	Beaver Lake Park	5439 Stonebridge Dr	BCP1933DL2246	PAN1			Crown municipal								
5	Big Timber Park	2921 Kadenwood Dr	LMP54253DL7798	LP3			Crown municipal; includes license for chairlift								
6	Blueberry Park (4 sites)	3531 Falcon Lane	LMP11757DL4751/14389LMDL1755	LUCLP3			Crown municipal; 1 lot has shared interest in Barnfield Lot G								
7	Dream River Park	8409 Golden Bear Pl	20274DL1756	RR1			Crown municipal					• porta			
8	Fitzsimmons Fan Park	2 sites; no address	LMP19576DL3859	LP1			Crown municipal								
9	Green Lake launch	Lakeshore Dr road r.o.w.	none	none			road right of way						porta		
10	Habitat Park						Crown municipal					•			
11	Pine Point	Old Gravel Road	DL6434	LP1			Crown municipal; crown grant					•			
12	Rocky Knoll Park	1525 Spring Creek Dr	LMP49873DL7924	LP3			Crown municipal					•			
13	SK8/Pump Track	7390 Fitzsimmons Rd S	DL5028 part of Fitz. Park	RR1			Crown municipal					•			
14	Snowridge site	Whistler Rd	LMP47410DL5316	LP3			Crown municipal								
16	Wedge Park (3 sites)	8010 Alpine Way	north site by lake RMOW DL7248	LP1			Crown municipal					•			
	"		DL4755,7 Crown	LP1											
	"		south site with trail DL4755,7	LP1											
Extra notes:															
	1 Adjacent to 2 soccer fields, 4 tennis courts and 1 greenhouse			4											
	2 Landfill constraints; raised beds / no greenhouse			5											
	3 Part of Lost Lake Park; washroom at adjacent Passive Haus			6											
Meadow Park furniture: 12 picnic tables by play area & 8 by ROGD; 3 Memorial benches, 1 memorial structure; 3 standard benches, 3 old standard benches; 3 waste bins; 2 Park Name signs old standard; 1 map kiosk, 2 interpretive															
Rainbow Park furniture: 8 picnic tables by slough, 3 under shelter, 3 south beach, 3 north beach, 2 by volleyball; 4 memorial benches; 3 standard benches; 1 old standard bench; 3 waste bins; 2 character bridges; 4 interpretive sign															

18-Feb-13

Parking	Lawn area	Lake, pond, river	Beach	Sand V-Ball	Ball Diamond	Soccer Field	Season Concession	Dog Off Leash	Greenhouse/ Gardening	Accessible Feature	Park Name Sign	Interpretive signs	Heritage	Public Art	Picnic Tables	Benches, Chairs	Drinking Fountain	Waste bins areas	Extra Notes	Natural Area	Lawn Area	Play Area	Hard Surface	Other	Total Size sq. m.	
•	•			2		2		•	1	•	•				3	8	2	1	1	1	3100	2094	206	0	125	5,525
•	•					1				•				•	3	4		•	2						102,300	
	•									•						1		1							2,327	
	•	pond										•				1					347				10,074	
•	•	pond										•			3	1	1	1			4800	3632	252	413	80	5,617
•	•	pond													5										9,177	
•	•	lake	•												3	1	1	1			1534	531	166	0	591	1,455
•	•	pond													3	1	1	1			4251	2805	235	1260	4	2,822
															4			1								8,555
																										4,100
	•	pond										•			2						7200	1900	0	0	100	9,700
•															2		1	1								9,200
																			3	5800	0	280	630	90		8,050
																										(6800)*

Size range from 1455 (Green Lake) to 10074. (excluding Bayly Park)

Average is 6728sqm or 1.66 acres

Median is 7425sqm or 1.83 acres

#### Notes:

•	•	lake	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	10	3	1	3		Custom play house; 2 accessible picnic tables (no paved path)						23,623
•	•	river	•							•		•		•	3	4	1	1		Custom chairs; 1 accessible picnic table						9,887
•	•	river													3					River; timber structure; covered bridge						
•	•	lake	•				•			•	•	1			4	3m	2	4		Food, boat concession & racks; 2 docks; 4 bike racks						18,787
•	•	lake	•				•	•		•	•	•			8	3+12m	2	•		4 Seasonal parking; events; cross country skiing; lighting						2,181,834
•	•	river			2					•	•	3		•	20	5+3m	1	3		5 River; 4 memorials; water play; see site furniture list below						112,373
•	•	lake	•	3			•	•		•	•	3	•		19	4+4m	1	4		6 Lake; 4 memorials; heritage cabins; see furniture list below						33,963
•	•				3				2		•				6	1m	1	•		6 River; fieldhouse; washroom / concession; school						192,942
•	•	stream								•	•	forest	•		4+1m	1	•			Urban park, forest park & ornamental park; unique furniture						11,505
•	•	lake	v.small				•			•	•	•		•	4		1	•		7 Access to adaptive sports; food, boat concession; payphone						12,883
•	•					undersized	4		1		•	•		•	porta	9+1m	2	4		8 Unique features; performance pavilion; outdoor skating						15,529
•	•																	2								

#### Notes:

		lake					boat		•	•	•	•				2+1m				9 Art & writing workshop house; boat concession house; dock						16,749
•	•	lake	•				food				•	•								Teacherage structure rented for storage						9,641
		pond																		Buildings of varied condition; train crossing and sewer issues						
																2				Wood stairs and forest paths to viewing platforms						78,609
•		lake																		10 Undeveloped except for trail and 3 docks						90,407
•		river									•					•				Canoe pull out; boat concession operation						237,034
•		lake	•								•															24,889
•		lake									•				1			1		Regulatory map in kiosk; dock						22,691
		lake									•			•		1m										
																				Private road through park						19,428
•		river									•	•			2	3+1m	1	•		Lighting for night skateboarding and events						35,913
		lake																		Trail; east access via wood staircase						26,703
																				By WSS school and fields						209,104
																										8,166

7 2 docks; boat racks; map kiosk; extensive ramp access; shallow pond

8 Playground on private strata lots by agreement; 16 seasonal chairs donated by Rotary; custom memorial &amp; athlete recognition

9 site of adaptive sport programs; constraints of old, residential structures

10 Municipal website states there are plans to develop this park (?)

signs; 3 parking lots; 1 drinking fountain; slack line posts; 3 bike racks areas

## 6.2.2 Municipal Recreation Facility Inventory: Comparable Communities in British Columbia

### BC Municipal Recreation Facilities: comparison of municipalities within a comparable population range

Source: Civic Info BC Feb-13

Comparable Community	Whistler	Revelstoke	Ladysmith	Qualicum Beach	Kitimat	Quesnel	Williams Lake	Summerland	Parksville	Dawson Creek	Sidney	Terrace	Comox	Squamish	Notes
<b>Population</b>	10,531	7,230	7,538	8,502	8,987	9,326	10,744	10,828	10,993	10,994	11,315	11,320	12,136	14,949	
Aquatic Centre/indoor pool	1		3		1	3	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	
Arena (ice sheets)	1	1	0	0	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	a
Arts / Auditorium	1						2	1	1	2	1		1		
Basketball full court (outdoor)	0	1	0	0	1	0						1			
Basketball half court (outdoor)	2														
Community Hall / Centre	5	1				1	1	1	1	1	2		1		
Curling Facility	0	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		
Football Field	1							1							
Golf Course 9 hole or more	3	0					1	2	1	2					
Gymnasium	3	0	1		1			1	2	1	2	4	1		
Off leash / Dog Park	3						1	1			0				
Park number	33	21	13	12	24	12			75	18	23		25	23	
Parks Space (Ha)	404	300	130	280	418		74	75	65	130	22		98	94	
Rugby Pitch															
Running track 400m		1								1 indoor				1	
Seniors Centre	0	1			1	1	1		1		4		1		
Squash Racquetball	2	0	0	0	4	0	1	1		1	6		2		
Skateboard Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Soccer Pitch	3*	4	1	2	4	12	2	1	5***	8		8	6	13	b
Softball Baseball Diamond	6	7	5	2	11	12	13	10***	3	9	8		12	8reg Sportable	c
Tennis Court: indoors	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2		0		
Tennis Court: outdoors	12	2	1	1	4	6	3	5	8	4	2	7	8	4	d
Trails Multi use (Km)	300		10	14		15	14	120	20	7	6		10	47	
Trails Paved (Km)	40		0	10		15	0	5	20	0	2		19	25	
Water Spray /outdoor pool	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0		0		
Volleyball Court	3**						1	1							
Youth Centre	1						1	1	0	1	0		1	1	

The areas shaded in grey are from 2009/2010. The unshaded information is from 2012. The reporting varies depending on the year.

\* Three fields are considered suitable for team sports

\*\* Outdoor, sand volleyball courts at Rainbow Park

\*\*\* From municipal web site

#### Notes:

Whistler Comparisons

- a. Arena: 1 1.5 arenas on average for 13 communities reported. The average is 1.9 arenas for communities over 10,000 - 11,000 population.
- b. Fields: 3 5.5 fields on average for twelve communities reported. The average is 4 fields for the communities 10,000 - 11,000. Whistler's 4th field will be all weather, available in 2013.
- c. Diamonds: 6 8.3 diamonds per the 12 communities reported. The average is 8.75 for the communities 10,000 - 11,000 population.
- d. Tennis courts: 12 4.2 courts for 13 communities reported. The average is 5 for the towns 10,000 - 11,000 population.
- e. Park Space: The Squamish park space listing in Civic Info BC (26 ha) is much less than the data from their new Parks and Recreation Master Plan (94 ha).



## 6.2.3 Yearly Park Use by Field and Sport

Resort Municipality of Whistler: Park Year by Field and Sport														
Actual results: from 2012 Facility Usage Reports	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	Total hours booked	Reported hours available
<b>DEMAND: BY FIELD USE</b>														
BALL #1 MEADOW maintenance SSBA camps tournament					M1,8,15		M2-25	25-27	S15				144 hours	3,959
BALL #2 MEADOW maintenance School District SSBA tournament					M1,8,15		H15,21		S15				71 hours	3,959
BALL #3 SPRUCE maintenance baseball tournament					M1,8,15		25,8,9		A31,34				607 hours	3,959
BALL #4 SPRUCE maintenance SSBA / baseball tournament					M1,8,18		25,8,9		A31,34				625 hours	3,959
BALL #5 SPRUCE maintenance baseball camps tournament					M1,8,15		25,8,9		A31,34				870 hours	3,959
FIELD #7 MYRTLE PHILIP LOWER maintenance School District soccer camps					M1		M1-31						663 hours	3,959
FIELD #8 MYRTLE PHILIP LOWER maintenance School District soccer camps							M1,8,14,27						496 hours	3,959
FIELD #9 MYRTLE PHILIP UPPER maintenance School District soccer camps					M1,18		M1-31						138 hours	3,959
FIELD #10 MYRTLE PHILIP UPPER maintenance School District soccer camps					M1		M1,15,25						117 hours	3,852
FIELD #11 WSS maintenance School District soccer rugby					M1,8,15		M15,30						929 hours	3,959
FIELD #12 WSS maint. not reported School District rugby													567 hours	3,959
FIELD #13 SPRING CREEK maint. not reported School District rugby camps							M14,10						213 hours	3,638
VOLLEYBALL RAINBOW COURT #1 volleyball camps													209 hours	5,136
VOLLEYBALL RAINBOW COURT #2 volleyball camps													166 hours	3,848
VOLLEYBALL RAINBOW COURT #3 volleyball camps													155 hours	5,136

Note: ball diamond #6 at Myrtle Philip is not booked

## 6.2.4 Additional Park and Recreation Facility Use Data

### ORGANIZED PARK USES:

Disk Golf  
Lost Lake Event Area  
Meadow Park Event Area  
Rainbow Park Event Area  
Rebagliati Park Event Area

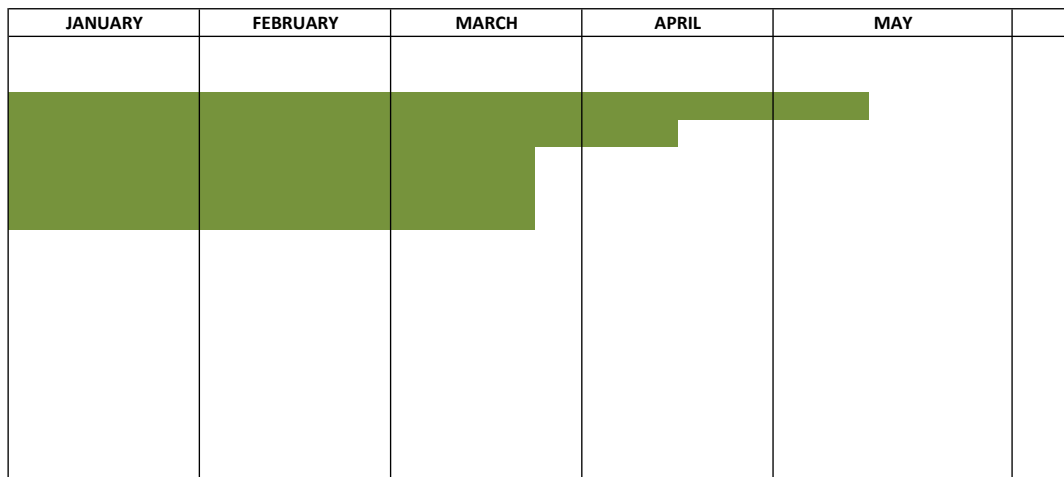


### INDOOR RECREATION:

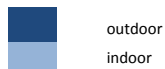
#### ARENA

Minor Hockey ~285 members  
Whistler Skating Club 85  
Women's Hockey up to 120  
Men's Rec up to 200  
A league up to 80  
Oldtimer's up to 160  
Public Skate  
Drop in Hockey  
schools

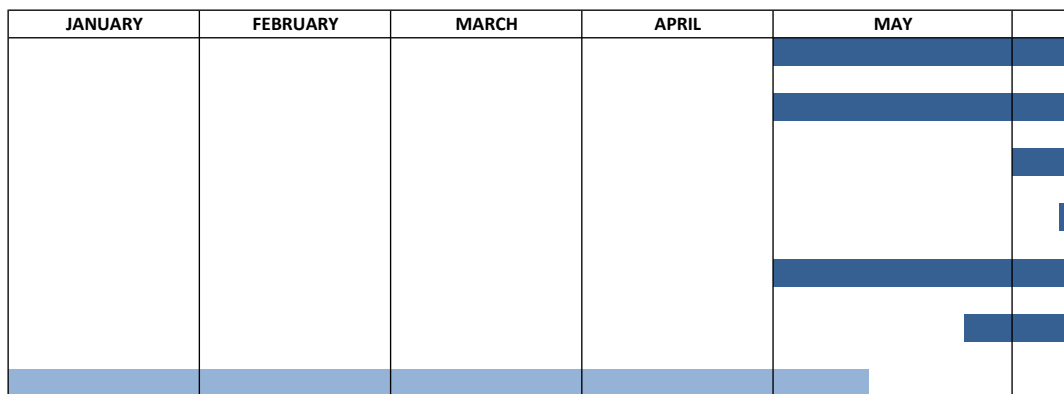
#### POOL



### THE YEAR BY SPORT:



Soccer  
Softball / Baseball  
Rugby  
Volleyball  
School uses  
Camps  
Hockey & Skating



Activity	Duration (hours)
M2-O31	136 hours
Jn24-S22	306 hours
M25-S1	32 hours
Jn21-S15	231 hours
Jn16-S9	186 hours
O20	

[illegible][illegible]





### 6.2.5 Meadow Park Sports Centre Feasibility Study

To provide context and highlight key features of the RMOW's plan to potentially expand the Meadow Park Sports Centre (MPSC) in the future, an excerpt from the executive summary of the April 2014 Feasibility Study report is shown below. The MPSC Feasibility Study identifies the process undertaken to look at how the MPSC might be expanded in the longer term to address future changes in demand or developments in recreation uses. The study also outlines several concepts and identified opportunities for potential facility expansion or improvements.

Bruce Carscadden Architect Inc. was commissioned in the fall of 2013 to work with the RMOW to develop a suite of design solutions to address the aging MPSC facilities. The research is rooted in a series of explorations that look to clarify the feasibility of a number of design proposals (reconfiguring the vertical circulation, for instance), but the report should be read in the context of the complications that arise in long-term planning scenarios that result from the competing needs of required facility upgrades that result from deferred maintenance, facility modernization needed to offer contemporary equipment, and the desire to execute work while maintaining operational capacity, as well as available funding.

The MPSC Feasibility Study provides a general overview of the status of the facility and its major equipment observed at the time of the study. It includes rough estimates for only the cost of overall construction on some of the proposed concepts. The Study does not indicate any commitment on behalf of the RMOW to proceed with the draft concepts or associated opportunities outlined in the report.

In this respect, while the report does provide a set of schematic design proposals for a variety of identified problems, it better serves as a framework for the RMOW to ask questions about MPSC's role in its community and to assist in prioritizing work while balancing stakeholder need, feasibility, cost, and results — all in the context of one possible long-term future scenario, The Preferred Option.

With support from the municipality, Bruce Carscadden Architect, together with CWMM Consulting Engineers, The AME Group, and AES Engineering Solutions, conducted an in-depth review of related programmatic precedents typical program sizes and requirements, spatial relationships, a site analysis including physical site constraints and zoning, as well as a review of the existing MPSC, and discussions with the project Steering Committee. These efforts constitute the groundwork for this report and form the basis of the project goals and informed the derivation of the schematic design concepts that are included in the report.

In a broad sense, these concepts focused on several specific project elements: an improved vertical circulation, expansion of the west rooftop, renovations to the fitness area, change room upgrades, pool natatorium upgrades, aquatic facility expansions, renovations to the arena change rooms, new multipurpose space atop the arena lounge rooftop, as well upgrades to the main entry.

Together these concepts offer a series of discrete but related strategies for how the RMOW might elect to upgrade and potentially expand the MPSC. The options each assume the ambition of introducing natural light and air to facilities where possible, capitalizing on views both to the exterior, as well as across interior spaces, and upgrading where possible to a more contemporary aesthetic.

Additional information on the Feasibility Study is provided in the RLMP Detailed Recommendations document.











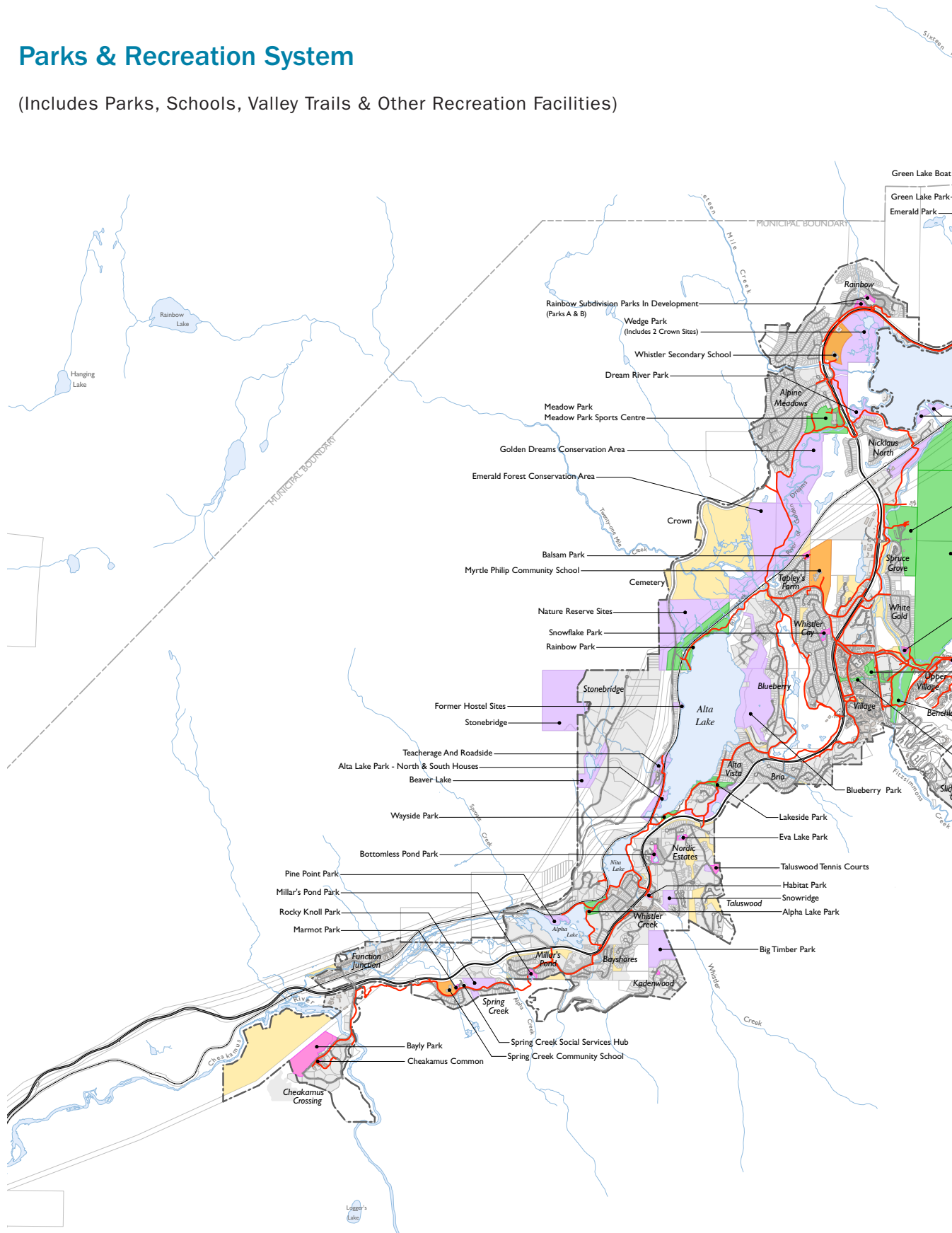
## 6.3 Maps

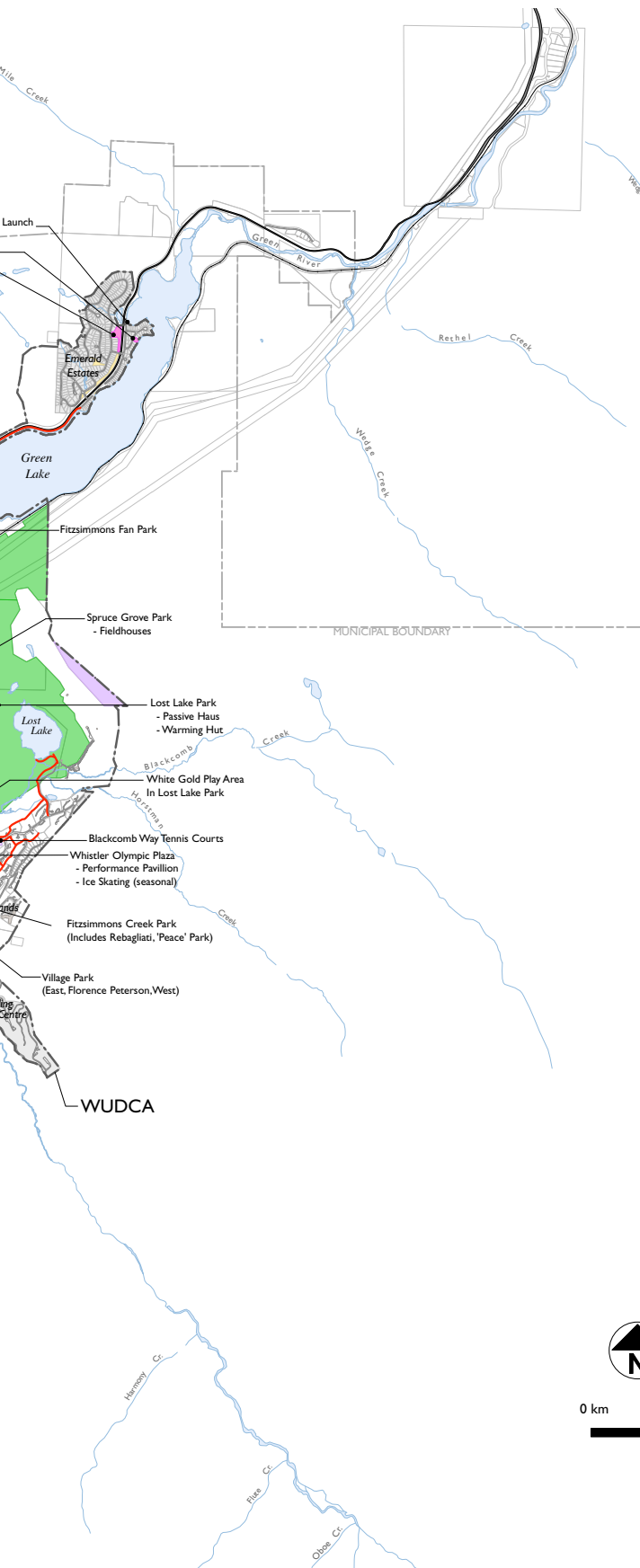
To provide context and highlight key features of the RMOW's recreation and leisure amenities, a number of maps have been produced and updated for this RLMP:

- 6.3.1 *Parks & Recreation System*: a map outlining existing parks, schools, Valley Trails and other recreation facilities under the RMOW's jurisdiction.
- 6.3.2 *Indoor Facilities*: an inventory of existing buildings and municipal facilities used for recreation and leisure activities in Whistler.
- 6.3.3 *Valley Trail – Types*: a map outlining the existing Valley Trail types separated from road, adjacent to road and on the road.
- 6.3.4 *Valley Trail Network – Lighting*: highlights which sections of the Valley Trail that are currently lit at night.
- 6.3.5 *Valley Trail Network – Gaps*: outlines gaps in the existing Valley Trail which may or may not be due to the presence of private property, restrictive topography, rights-of-way or environmental constraints or development costs.
- 6.3.6 *Off Road Recreational Trails*: a map showing an incomplete picture of Whistler's off road recreational trails, and future potential trail development areas.
- 6.3.7 *Outdoor Aquatic Recreation*: highlights commonly used watercraft access and take out points, whitewater specific areas and take out points, fishing and boating regulations.
- 6.3.8 *Non-Municipal Assets*: A map inventorying natural and built assets of value to the recreational experience. Often the public sees these assets as being part of the Whistler Brand even though they are not managed by the municipality and in some cases may be outside of municipal boundaries.

## 6.3.1 Parks & Recreation System

(Includes Parks, Schools, Valley Trails & Other Recreation Facilities)





## Parks & Recreation System

(Includes Parks, Schools, Valley Trails  
& Other Recreation Facilities)

- Major Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Natural Areas
- Schools
- Developed Neighbourhood Areas
- Other (e.g. Cemetery, Crown & Misc Municipal Properties)
- Valley Trail
- Whistler Urban Development Containment Area

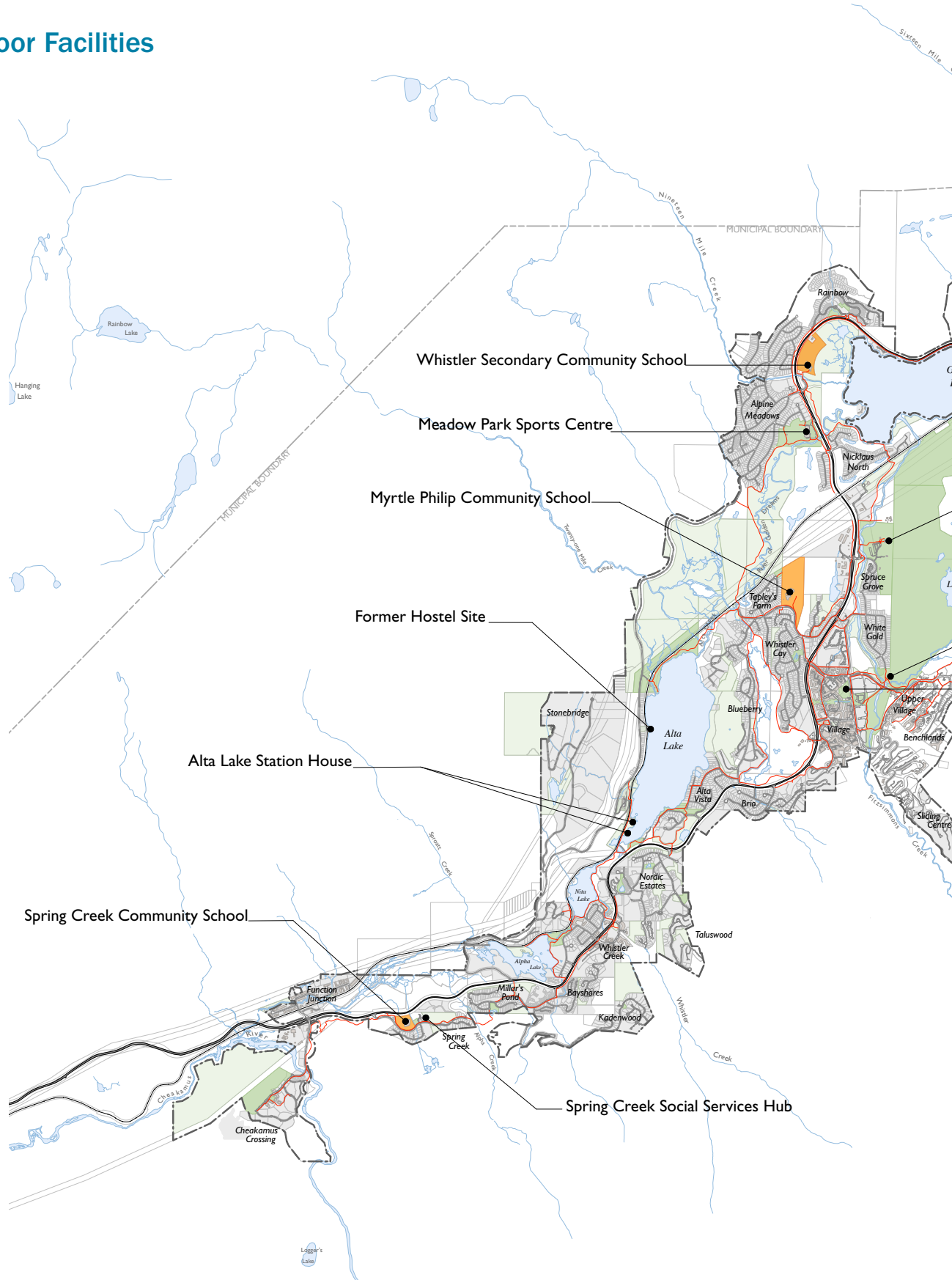


0 km 1 km 2 km 5 km

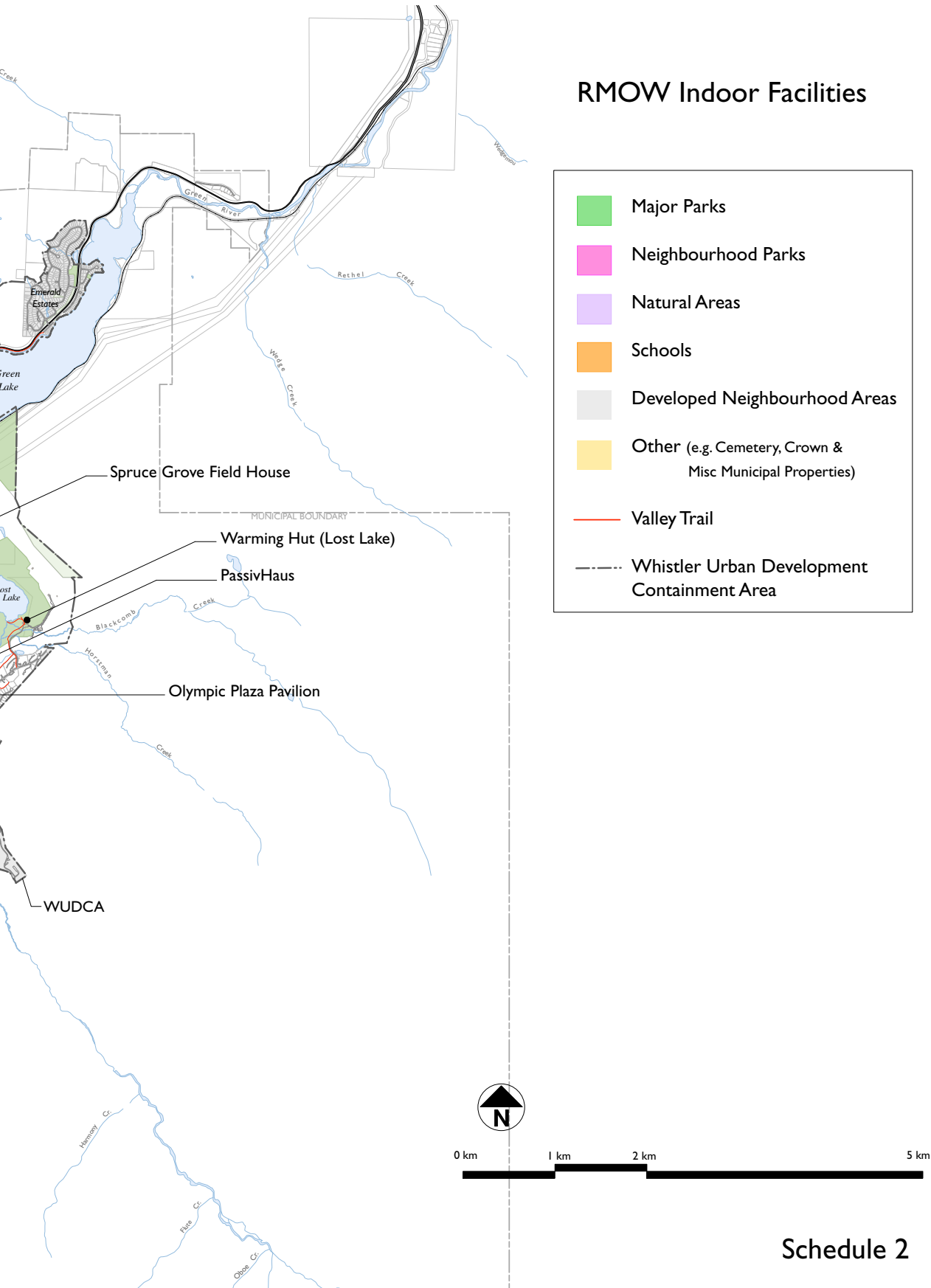
## Schedule I



## 6.3.2 Indoor Facilities

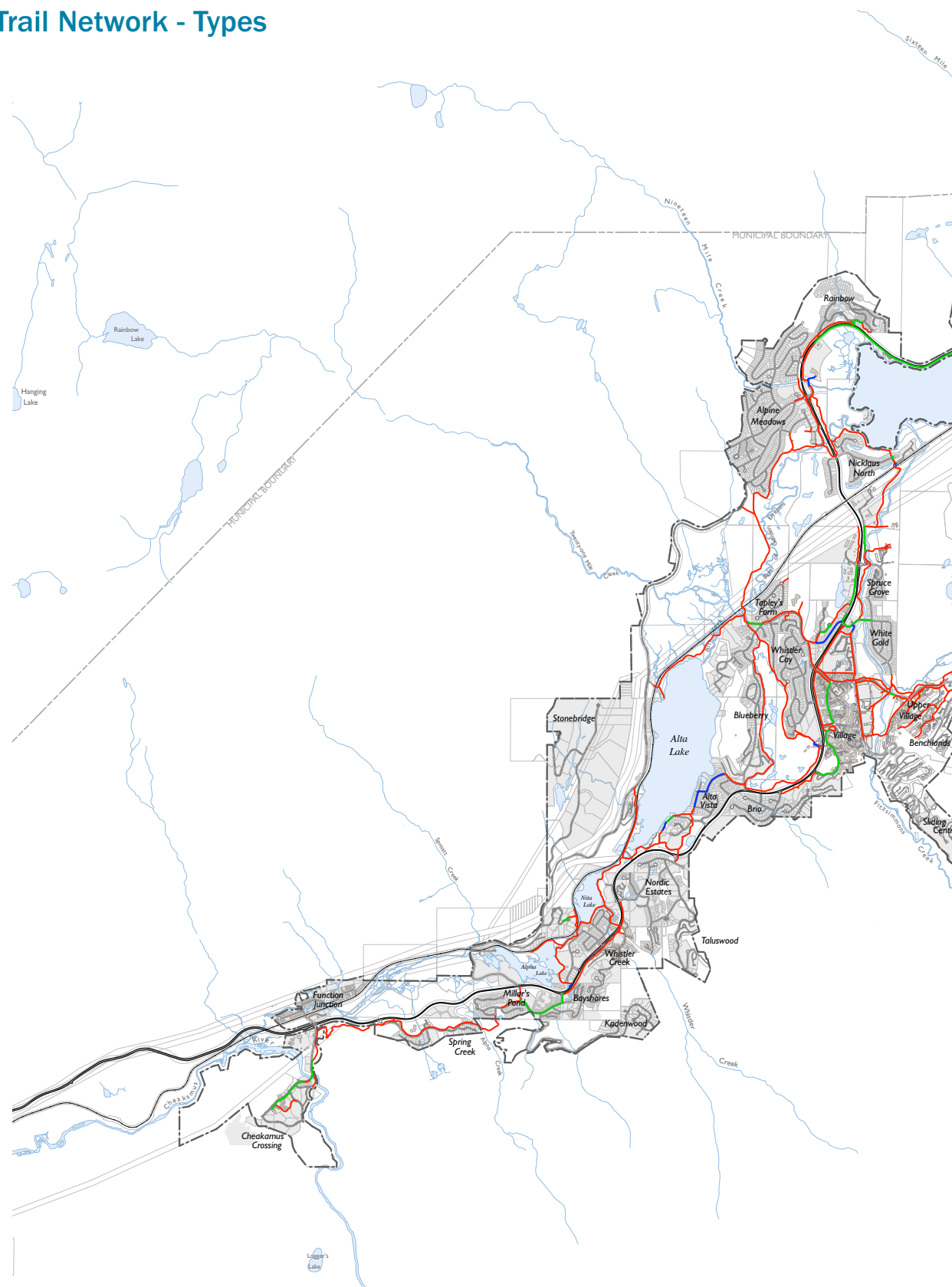


## RMOW Indoor Facilities

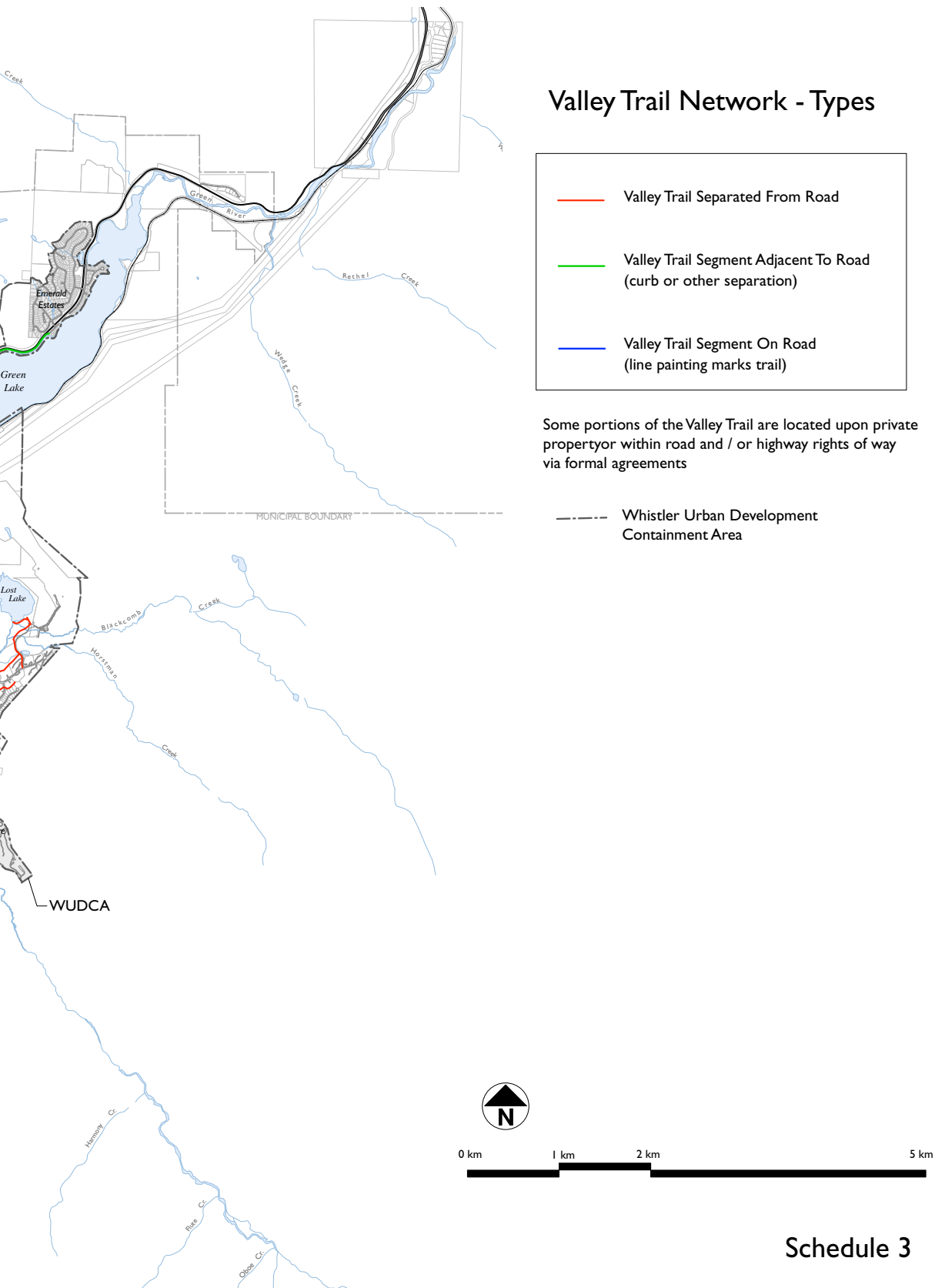


## Schedule 2

6.3.3 Valley Trail Network - Types

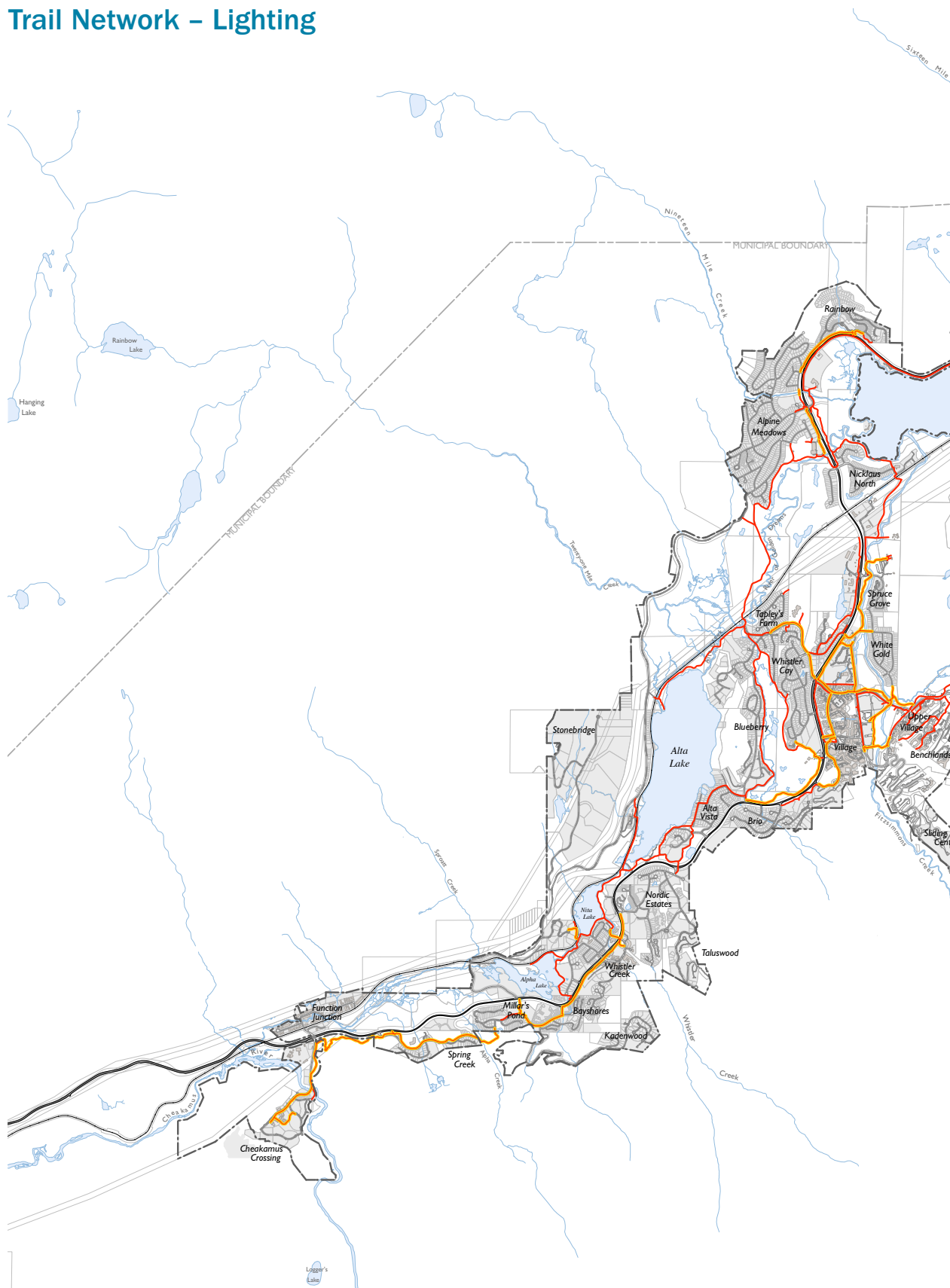


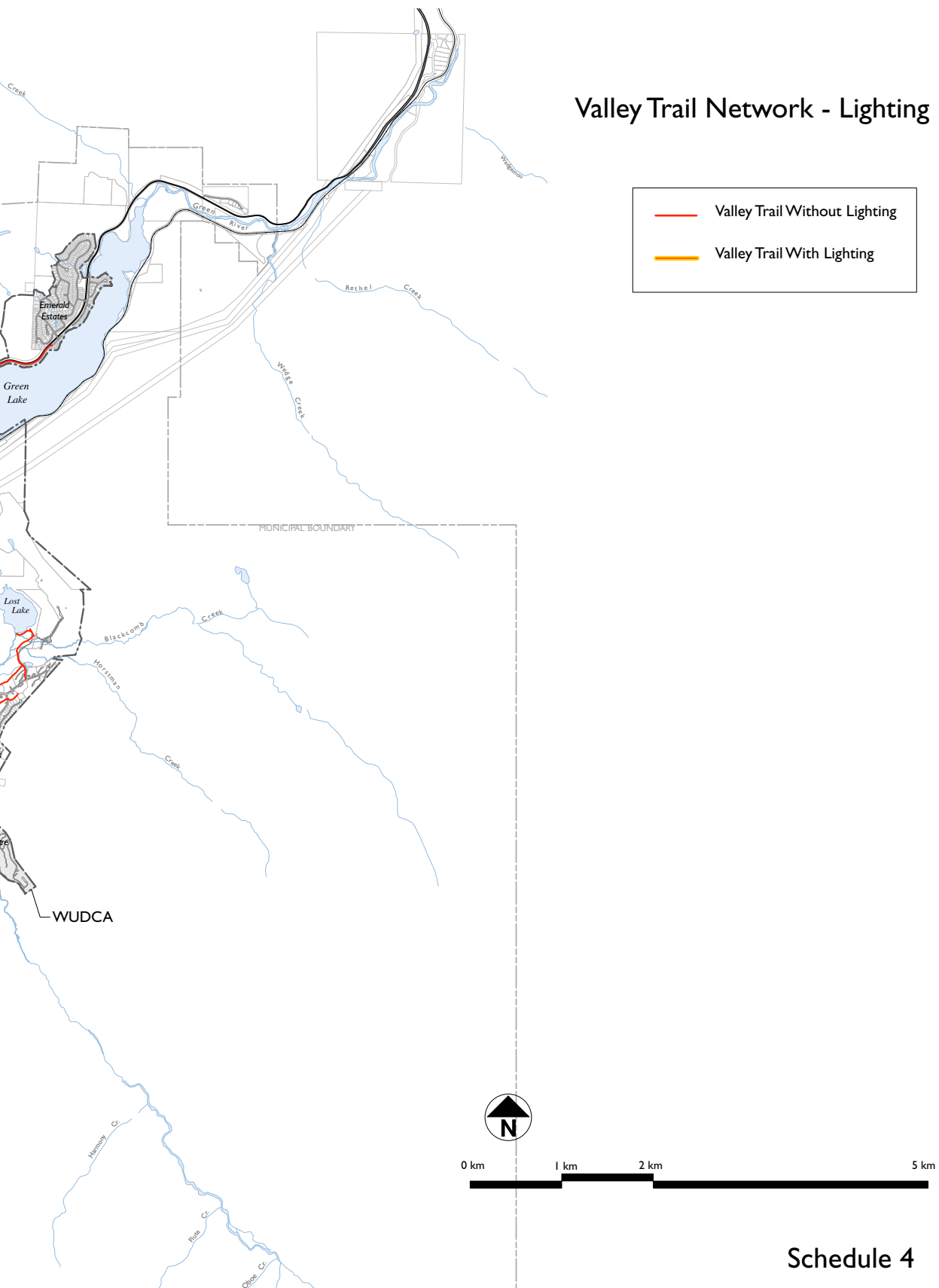




## Schedule 3

6.3.4 Valley Trail Network – Lighting

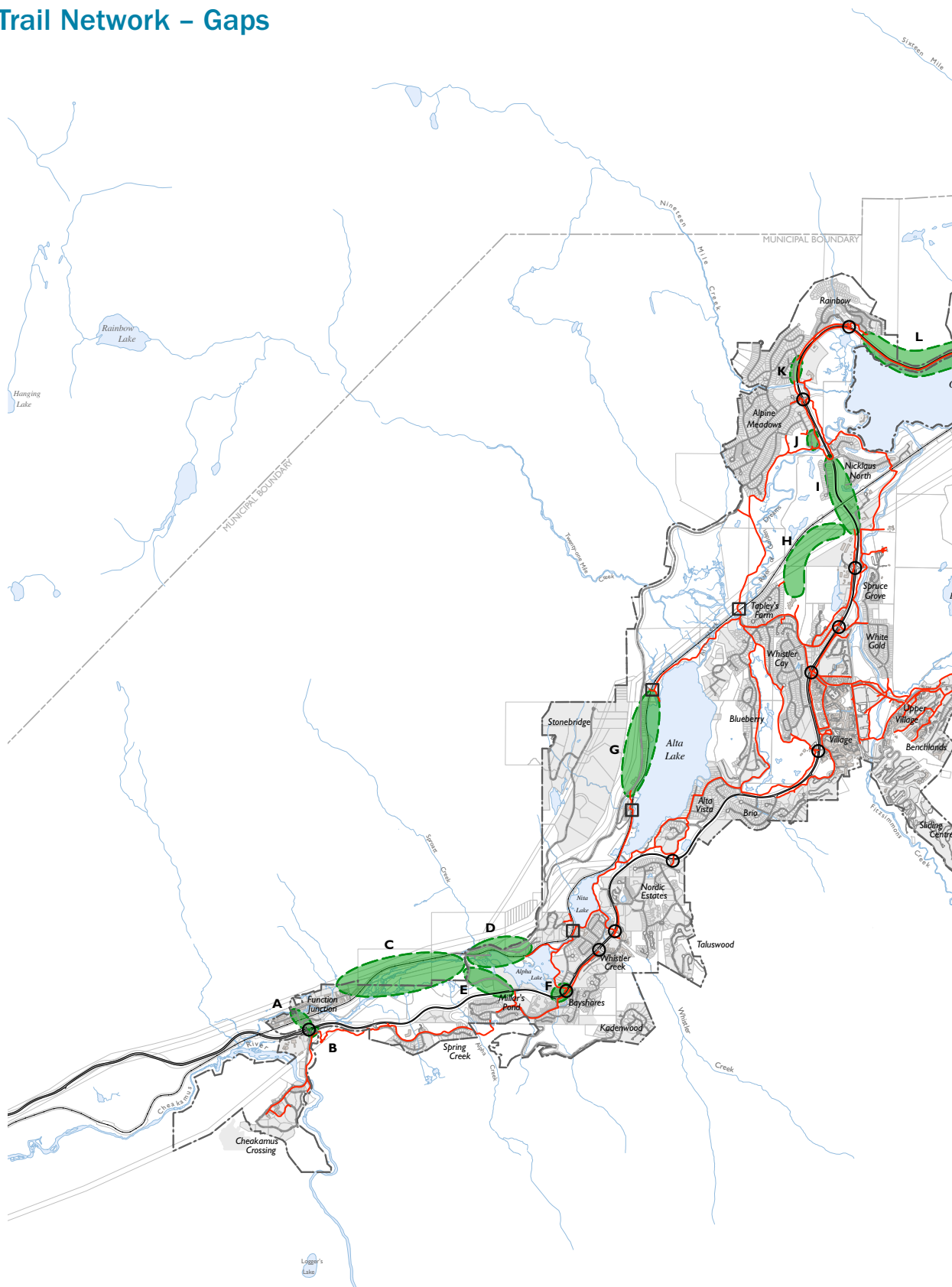




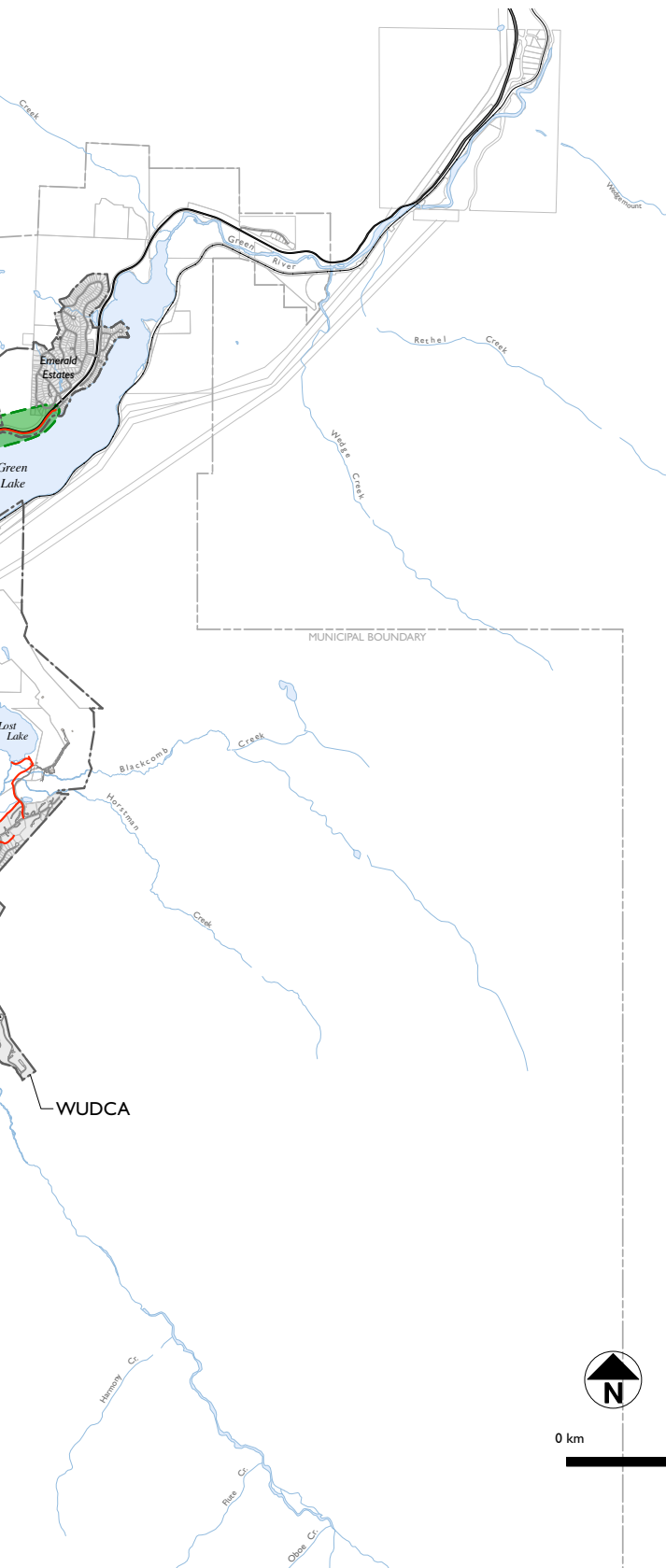
## Schedule 4







6.3.5 Valley Trail Network – Gaps



## Valley Trail Network - Gaps



### Legend

-  Gaps in the Valley Trail network
-  Highway 99 & Valley Trail controlled intersection or bridge
-  Railroad / Valley Trail controlled intersection or bridge
-  Whistler Urban Development Containment Area (WUDCA)

### Note

Gaps in the Valley Trail network were identified through the RLMP public engagement process. These gaps may or may not be due to presence of private property, restrictive topography, rights-of-way or environmental constraints. Identifying a gap does not necessarily mean a trail connection can or will be built and does not represent a municipal commitment or intent.

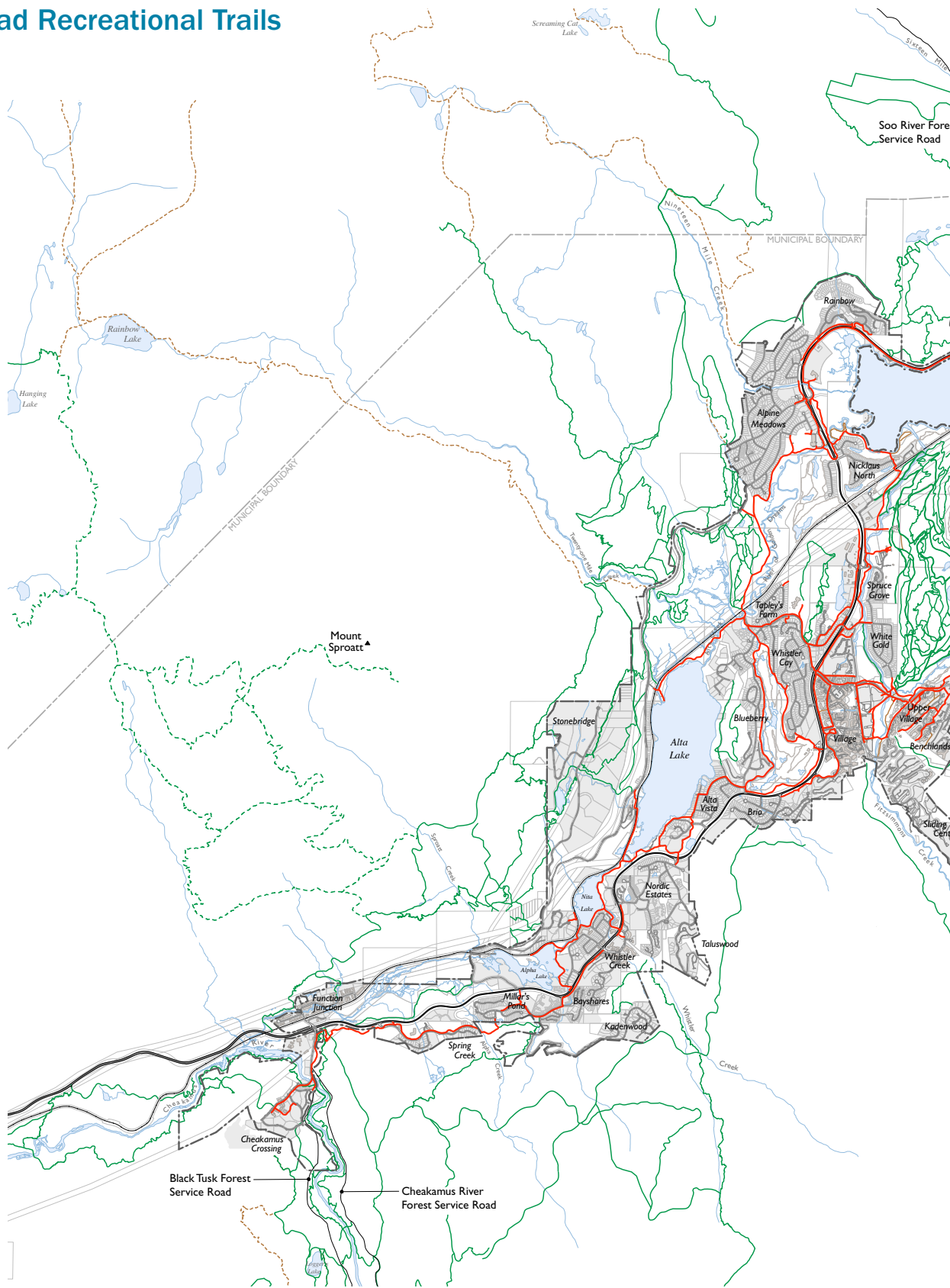
- A. Alpha Lake Road between Highway 99 and the Flank Trail's trail head just north of Millar Creek.
- B. Cheakamus Lake Road between the Whistler Interpretive Forest parking lot to the Highway 99 traffic signal island.
- C. Between Alta Lake Road and Function Junction on the south side of the CN Rail tracks and the north side of Highway 99;
- D. Between Alpha Lake Park and Alta Lake Road on the north side of Alpha Lake;
- E. Alta Lake Road between Highway 99 and the CN Railway crossing;
- F. On the north side of Highway 99 between the southern terminus of Lake Placid Road south to the Highway 99/Bayshores Drive traffic signal;
- G. Alta Lake Road between Rainbow Park and the existing Valley Trail terminus just north of Alta Lake Park (Old Mill Lane area);
- H. Between Highway 99 and Balsam Park/Myrtle Phillip Community School
- I. Between Cypress Place and the BC Transit facility on the west side of Highway 99, and crossing the CN Railway;
- J. In front of the Meadow Parks Sports Centre, connecting the facility's front door to existing Valley Trails leading north and south;
- K. Parkwood Drive between 19 Mile Creek and existing Valley Trail terminus leading to the Rainbow subdivision just north of the Meadow Lane intersection;
- L. A year-round Valley Trail connection between Emerald Estates and the Rainbow subdivision.



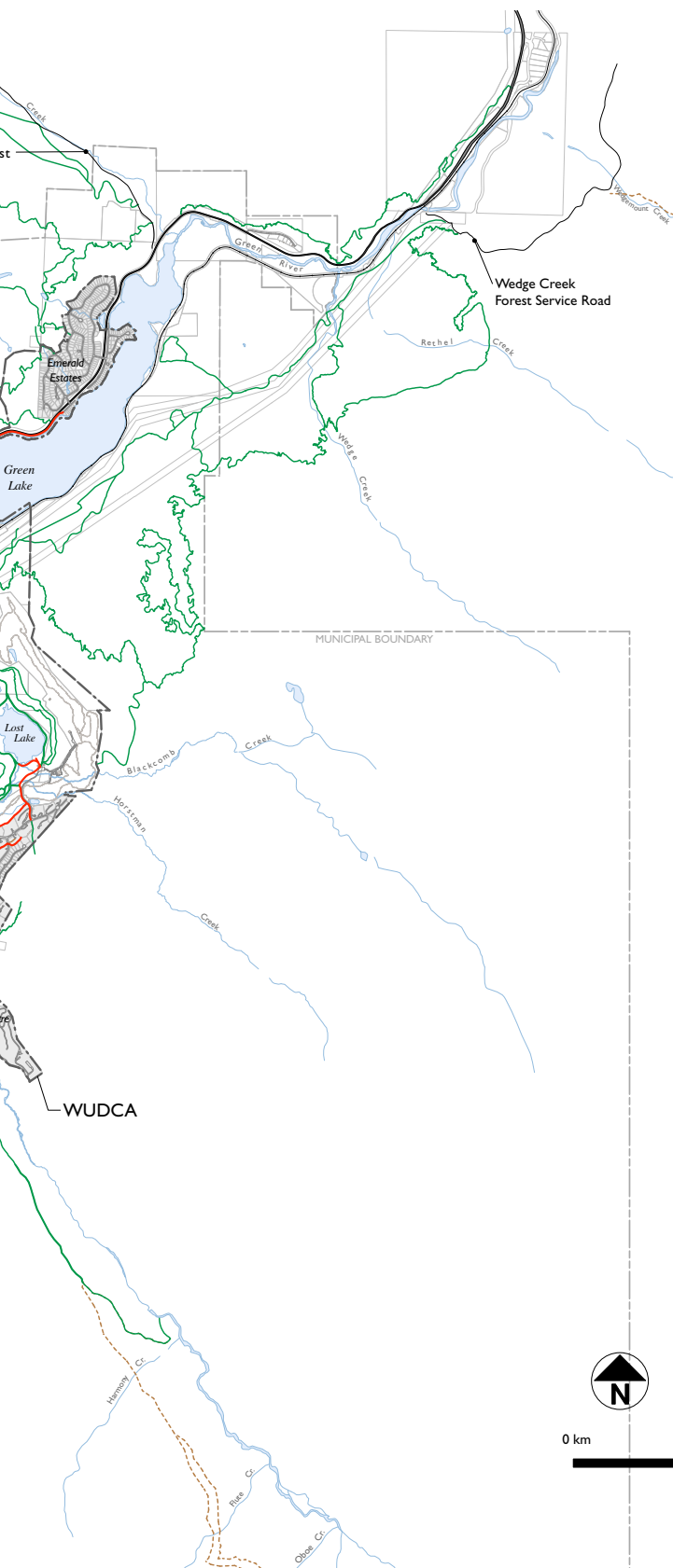
0 km 1 km 2 km 5 km

## Schedule 5

6.3.6 Off Road Recreational Trails







## Off Road Recreational Trails

- Non-Motorized Multi-Use
- - - Single Use
- Valley Trail
- FSR - Forest Service Roads
- - - Non-Motorized Multi-Use Approved & Under Construction
- - - Whistler Urban Development Containment Area (WUDCA)

### Data

Data for this schedule, sourced from various locations in 2013 & 2014 is incomplete. Accuracy is not guaranteed.

### Management Responsibility

A portion of these trails are managed by RMOW & WORCA. Many are unmanaged. For more information on Off-Road Recreational Trails refer to Chapter 10 of the Recreation and Leisure Master Plan's *Detailed Recommendations*.

### Future Trail Development

Areas for possible future recreational off-road trail development have been identified by the Trails Planning Working Group and include but are not limited to the following general areas:

- Cougar Mountain
- Parkhurst
- One Duck Lake
- Above Chateau Gold Course
- Blueberry Hill
- West side of valley below the Flank Trail
- Sproatt Mountain
- Rainbow Mountain
- Whistler Interpretive Forest and Jane Lakes
- Sea to Sky Trail south/Cheakamus River/Trash

These areas are managed or owned by a variety of jurisdictions, land managers and private entities. Their inclusion here does not necessarily represent a municipal, partner or stakeholder intent in any way.

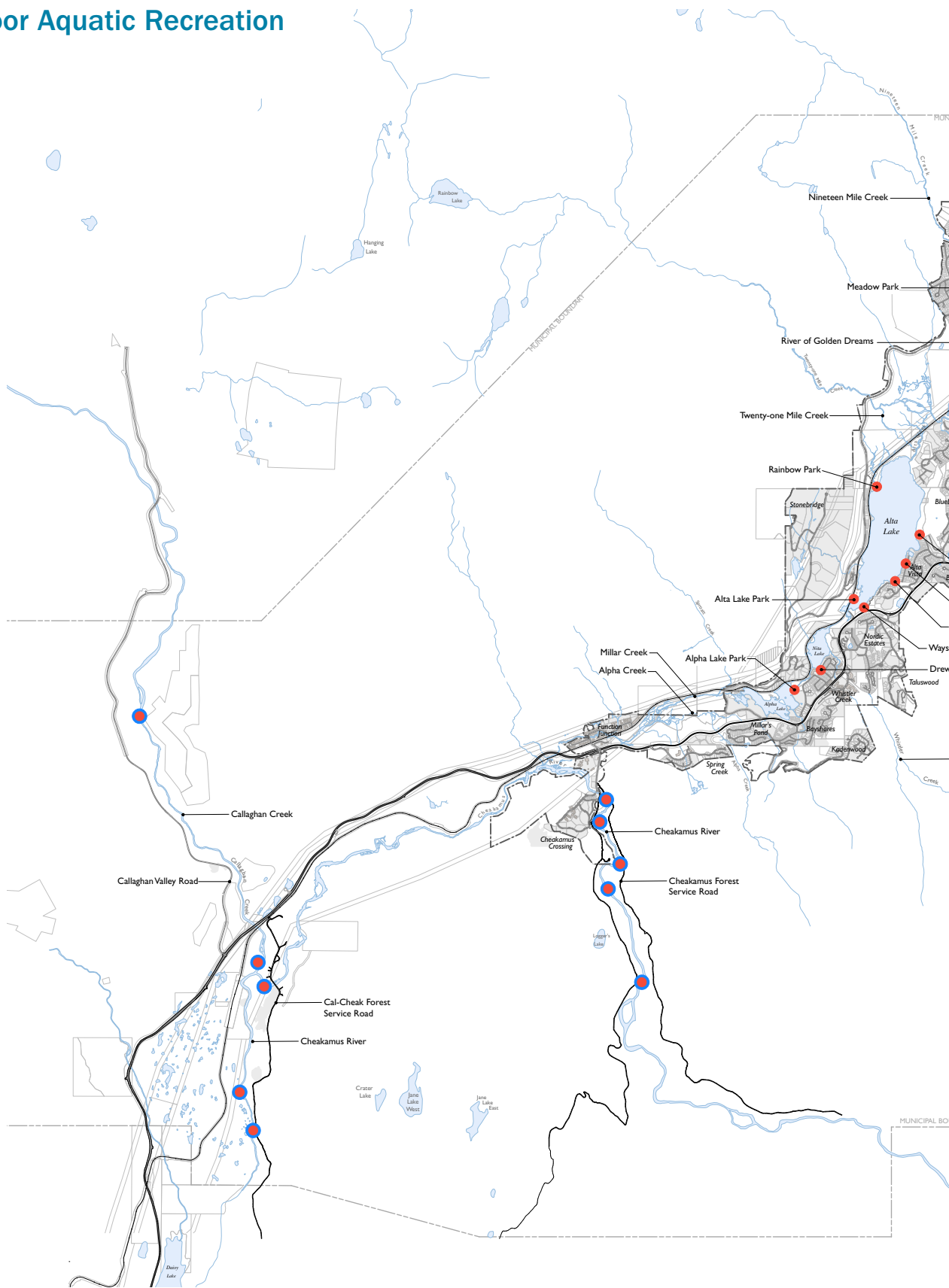
### Municipal Watershed

Any additional trail development in or adjacent to the municipal watershed (21 Mile Creek/portions of Sproatt and Rainbow Mountains) to occur as outlined in the *21 Mile Creek Source Water Protection Plan*. User behaviour within the watershed may influence future decisions.



## Schedule 6

6.3.7 Outdoor Aquatic Recreation



## Outdoor Aquatic Recreation

### Legend

- Commonly used watercraft access & take out points
- Whitewater specific access & take out points<sup>1</sup>

### River of Golden Dreams

Notes from the River of Golden Dreams Use Report 2011 (RMOW)

1. The total number of boats estimated on the river in May - September 2011 was 7,615. This has grown in recent years from 2,585 in 2008.
2. Recent observations have been the increase of private boats and greater diversity in the type of boats. Kayaks and canoes continue to be the dominant boat types.
3. The 2005 Social Carrying Capacity Study (Confluence) found that people begin to feel crowded as the number of boats per hour on the river exceeds 25 - 30.
4. The carrying capacity was exceeded on four occasions during July and August 2004 long weekends (over 25 boats / hour).

## Fishing Regulation

Site	Fishing Regulation				Boating Regulation	
	Barbless hook	Bait Ban	Release all fish	Notes	Electric motors only	Speed restriction
Alpha Lake					✓	
Alla Lake	✓	✓	✓	No fishing: Dec. 1 – Mar. 31		✓
Cheakamus River		✓	✓	Release Steelhead		
Green Lake	✓		✓			In some areas
Lost Lake					✓	
Nita Lake					✓	
Scotia Creek				Closed all year		

Note:

1. Refer to [www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations) Whistler is in Region 2
2. Fish size restrictions and other conditions may apply

----- Whistler Urban Development Containment Area

<sup>1</sup> Source: Liquidlore.com



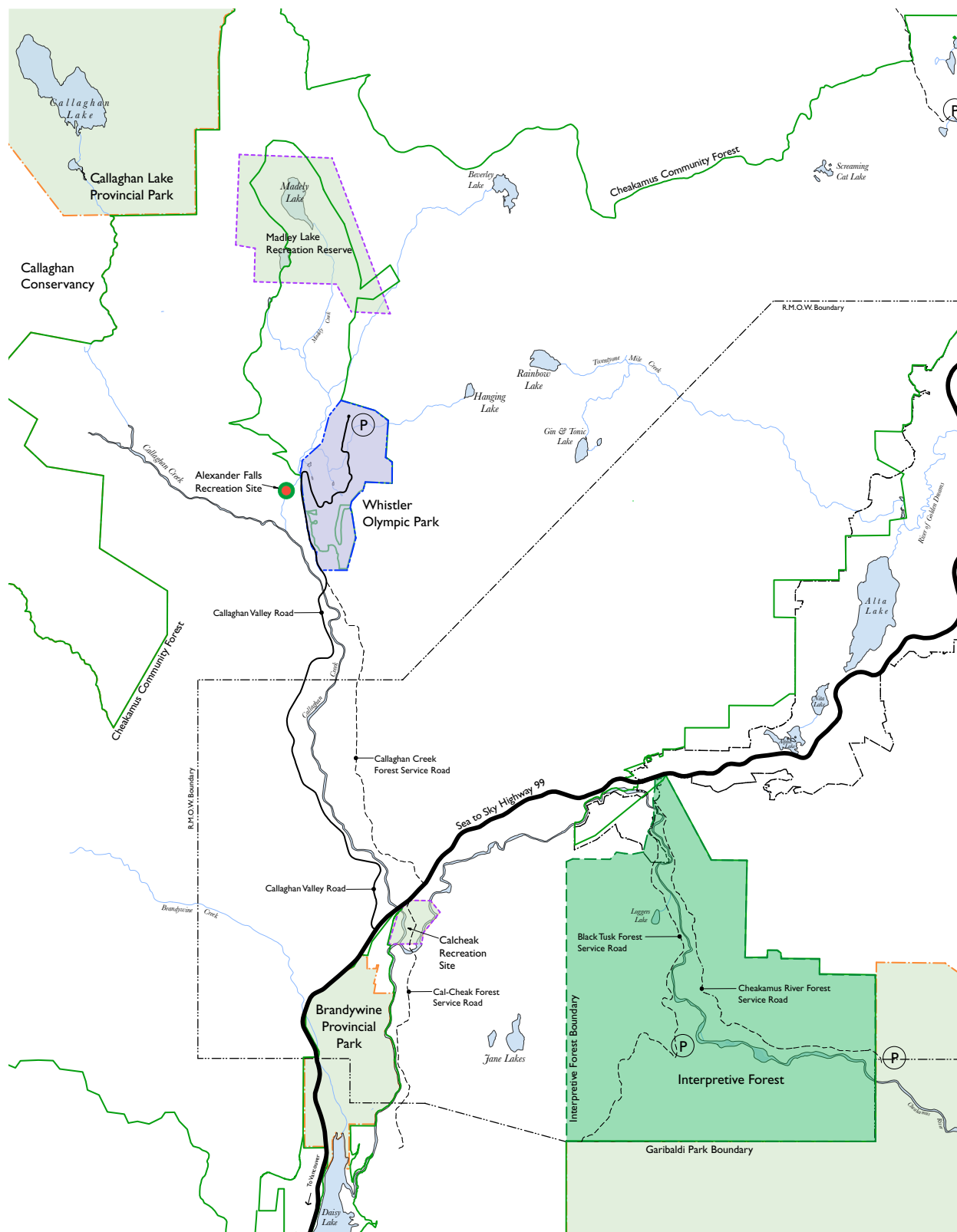
0 km 1 km 2 km 5 km

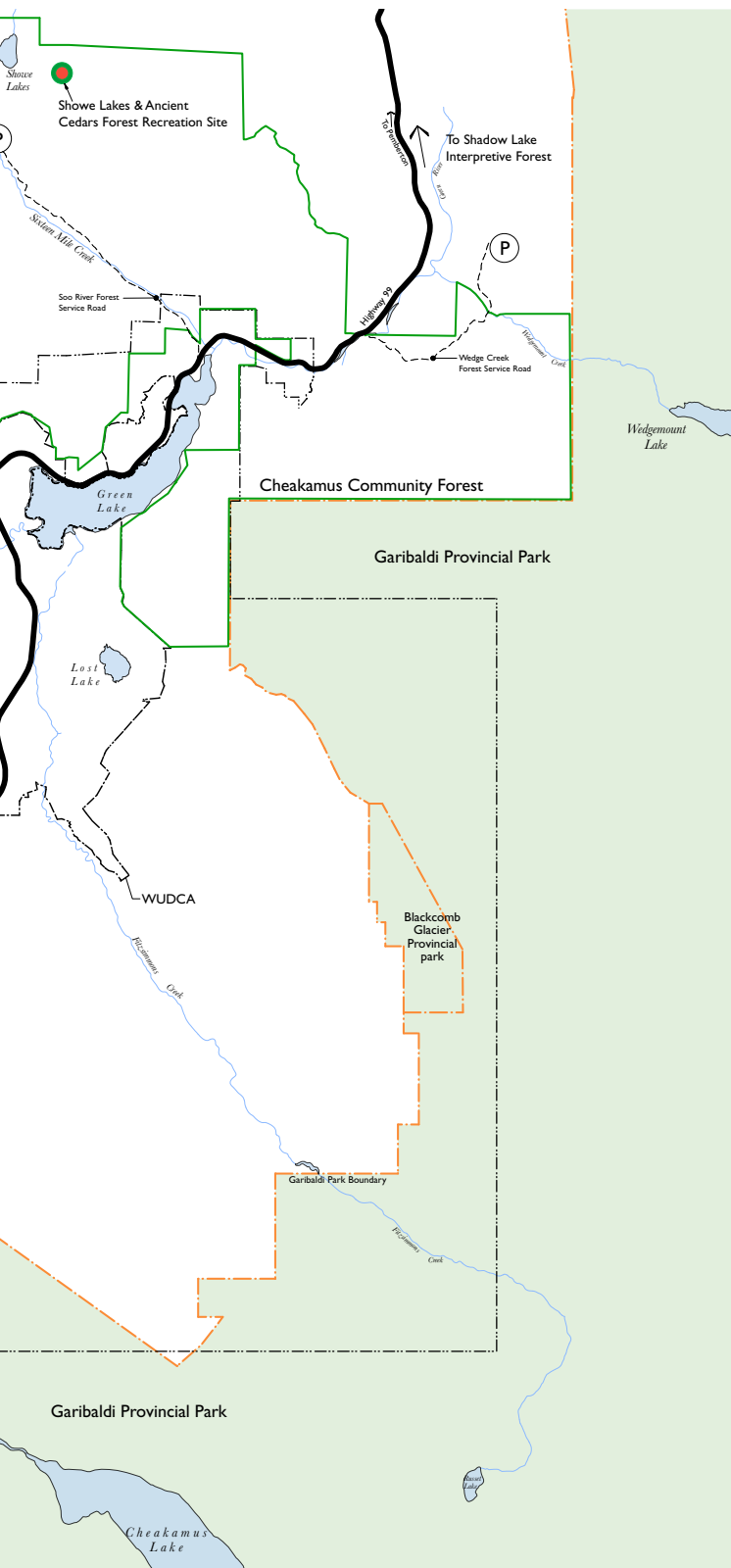
## Schedule 7

1:20,000



### 6.3.8 Non-Municipal Assets





## Non Municipal Assets

	Municipal Boundary
	Cheakamus Community Forest
	Whistler Urban Development Containment Area (WUDCA)
	Highway 99
	Callaghan Valley Road
	Forest Service Road
	Trailhead
	Provincial Park
	Forest Service Recreation Site
	Interpretive Forest
	Whistler Olympic Park

### Disclaimer:

The content was sourced from a variety of land mapping agencies and the accuracy is not guaranteed. Being identified on a schedule does not represent a municipal, partner, land manager and/or stakeholder commitment or intent in any way.

Other non-municipal assets may exist. For example, many trails are not managed by the municipality. For more information on trails, please refer to Schedule 6.

For graphic clarity purposes only the outer boundary of the Cheakamus Community Forest is shown - there are lands within the boundary that are not legally included with the Cheakamus Community Forest. These include developed lands, private lands, rights of ways etc.

Note that in many cases boundaries do overlap with each other.



0 km 4 km 5 km

## Schedule 8

